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INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Chemist's defibrillator donation

Heritage exhibition success

RAZOR BLADES FOUND TAPED TO SLIDE IN CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

PARENTS and youngsters are being warned to be extra-vigilant after a scalpel and razor blades were found taped to a slide at a children's play area.

The shocking discovery of the objects, which could have caused serious and potentially life-threatening injuries to an unsuspecting child, was made at the Winifred play area in Aughton on Friday (November 30).

A spokesperson for Lancashire Police said: "We were contacted by staff at West Lancashire Borough Council to say they had found some blades taped to a playground in Aughton.

"In the interests of safety, the park keeper removed the items before we were able to examine them. However, some forensic evidence has been recovered and this is being analysed to try and identify who was responsible.

"We are taking this incident seriously and are investigating it as a potential attempt to cause injury to children.

"We have also been working closely with the council to ensure that this and other playgrounds in the Ormskirk area are safe. Further checks will be carried out in the coming days.

"Anyone with information can email PC Sean Dalby on 3696@lancashire.pnn.police.uk. Alternatively, please call 101 quoting incident 695 of November 30."

The shocking incident has drawn widespread condemnation. A social media post by Ormskirk and Burscough Police calling on parents to be extra-vigilant has been viewed nearly 600,000 times and received more than 2,300 comments.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper called it a "vile and horrendous premeditated act of violence targeted at innocent children" and said the culprit or culprits must be caught as quickly as possible.

"How sad it is that parents now fear and must be extra vigilant in checking the safety of children's playgrounds.

"I have written to the police and the council to ask for action to try identify who did this and request regular monitoring of our play areas to ensure they remain safe for our young people to enjoy."

Aughton Park borough councillor Doreen Stephenson commented: "I can't believe anybody would stoop so low to do something like this in a public children's play area. It's an absolute disgrace."

And Aughton and Downholland borough councilor David Westley added: "I'm absolutely horrified. It's impossible to comprehend why anyone would do such a thing."

A spokesperson for West Lancs Council said: "While this is not one of the borough council's play areas, the authority is assisting in raising awareness of this incident and asking residents to remain vigilant, whilst urging anyone who knows anything about this, or any similar occurrences, to call the police.

"The Winifred Lane playground is the responsibility of Aughton Parish Council and the razor blades were found during a routine safety inspection by a park keeper who works for the parish council.

"Borough council staff have also inspected all of its own play areas over the weekend and can confirm that no further hazards of this type were discovered. They will continue with their inspections on a regular basis."

Left: One of the blades found attached to a children's slide at the Winifred Lane children's play area in Aughton *(below)*.

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Council makes changes to housing allocation criteria as a result of public consultation

Authority says updated policy aims to make best use of property to meet people's needs

WEST Lancs Council has made changes to its Housing Allocations Policy aimed at making the best possible use of its housing to meet people's needs.

Following a public consultation about the proposed amendments earlier this year, important changes in the newly-adopted policy include:

- **Changes to the way applicants for housing are put into priority bands to give more priority to those in less secure accommodation.**
- **Amendments to the local connection criteria.**
- **Reducing the age limit for people to live in sheltered accommodation from 60 to 55 (or 50 if it is a flat not in a communal sheltered scheme).**
- **Measures to help ensure all applicants have a successful tenancy that they can afford when they are offered a home.**
- **Changes to the way properties are advertised on the council's choice-based online lettings system, www.westlancshomefinder.co.uk, which will now be updated more regularly.**

Councillor Jenny Forshaw

Other reasons for the improvements include addressing issues of rent affordability as the council want to support people into tenancies that they can afford.

Councillor Jenny Forshaw, the authority's portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "The council is very grateful to all those who engaged in the consultation.

"These changes will help the council make the best possible use of its housing to meet people's needs."

The updated policy applies to those currently on the waiting list for council housing and new applicants and existing council tenants looking to move to another council property.

A new pet policy for council housing, which has relaxed rules around pet ownership in certain accommodation, has also been adopted.

Anyone interested in becoming a council tenant must be registered with HomeFinder, so they can bid for the properties through that system. For more information on how to register on HomeFinder ring 01695 585 271 or go to www.westlancshomefinder.co.uk.

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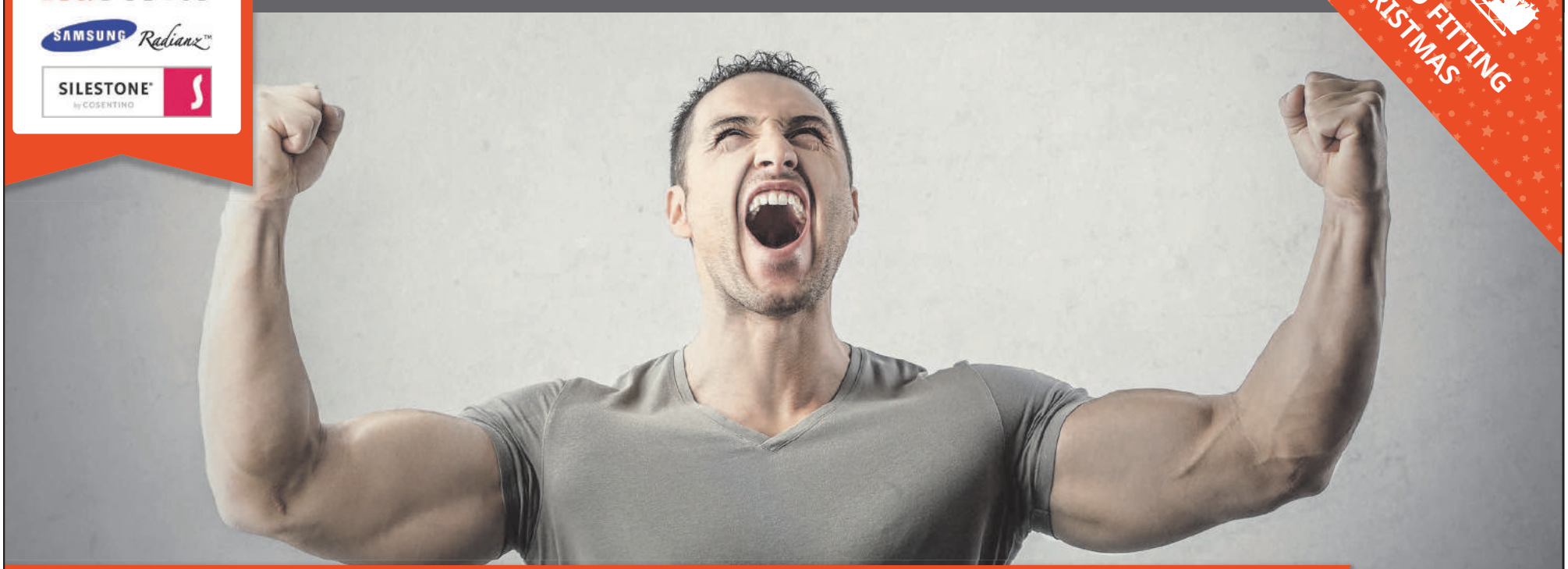

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Pupils go 'on the record' to raise funds for Isabel's cancer battle

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Youngsters bidding to scale the musical heights for appeal in aid of classmates' mum

PUPILS at an Ormskirk primary school are hoping to scale the musical heights with a fundraising effort in aid of their classmates' mum who is battling brain cancer.

The youngsters from St Anne's RC Primary travelled down to the famous Abbey Road studios in London to record an album to raise money for Isabel Morison.

Isabel, from Aughton, was diagnosed with Grade 4 Primary Glioblastoma, the most aggressive and fastest-growing form of brain cancer. in February this year.

Since then the mum-of-two, whose children, Dylan and Lucy attend St Anne's, has undergone chemotherapy and radiotherapy, as well as taking part in a trial of a treatment called Optune, a non-invasive technique which uses electric fields, delivered via a set of adhesive patches worn like a skull cap, designed to prevent the tumour from growing or spreading quickly.

However, because the cancer is so aggressive she is also hoping to receive immunotherapy. This is known to be working in successfully treating some previously incurable cancers but is only available privately and is expensive.

Friends and colleagues have since rallied to try and raise the £200,000 needed with events including a ball and a football match, and on Wednesday, December 19 there will be a carol concert at Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral.

Meanwhile the St Anne's pupils are hoping that proceeds from their eight-track CD, entitled *Grace Will Lead Me Home* after a line from the hymn *Amazing Grace,* will help to boost the appeal.

Featuring music written by the school's music teacher, James Cairns, the album will soon be available to buy from the school in Aughton Street and there are also plans to make it available to download online early in the New Year.

St Anne's teacher, Katrina Williams, said that Isabel - herself a music teacher at Sacred Heart Catholic College in Crosby - joined daughter Lucy and fellow pupils for the lengthy recording session which only stopped for short breaks, including lunch and tea, provided by a local Dominos pizza store.

Katrina said: "The children recorded a total of eight tracks including Ed Sheeran songs, a track from musical *The Greatest Showman* and some original compositions by James.

"They felt very lucky that Isabel was able to travel down with them and was able to accompany them on a few tracks and even shared the conducting duties!"

And St Anne's school music co-ordinator, Nicola Rawlinson, added: "Abbey Road was a huge success and the children were a credit to the school and local community.

"They felt that what they were doing was very important and that they were helping Isabel and her family."

To donate to the fund, visit the website: www.gofundme.com/isabel-treatment-fund.

Above: Pupils of St Anne's RC Primary School recreate the famous Beatles' album cover on their visit to Abbey Road Studios - now they hope their efforts will help to swell the appeal to raise £200,000 to enable Isabel to have immunotherapy treatment.

Right: Isabel pictured with husband Stuart and children Dylan and Lucy.

Vegetarian cafe offering free Christmas dinner for elderly

THE owners of a vegetarian cafe in Ormskirk are offering a free Christmas dinner for any local elderly people who may be feeling lonely this Christmas.

Chia Chia on Aughton Street, opened earlier this year and is believed to be the first wholly natural and organic foods supermarket and cafe in the town.

And owner Josh Gordon is getting into the festive season spirit by offering a free nut roast/vegetarian meal for anyone who may otherwise be on their own this Christmas Day.

He says: "On Christmas Day this year, we are going to be putting up a free Christmas dinner for any lonely elderly people in the area.

Companionship

"If you know anyone that would benefit from coming to enjoy a dinner, drinks and some companionship, then please get in touch.

"It could be an elderly neighbour, an elderly customer you serve at work, or just a someone you know. Get in touch so we can reach out to them as there will be limited seats."

Anyone interested in taking up Josh's offer is asked to call into the store for a ticket and to discuss any dietary requirements.

MP teams up with charity to warn about loan sharks

ROSIE Cooper has teamed up with a new charity aimed at raising awareness of the scourge of illegal money lending and helping consumers to avoid falling into the clutches of loan sharks.

The charity, Loan Smart, has created a free-to-use website where people can easily check whether a lender is fully authorised by the UK regulatory body the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

The site also offers consumers practical advice on what to do next if they suspect someone is lending money illegally or where they can get proper help and advice.

West Lancs MP, Ms Cooper said: "I am pleased to be supporting Loan Smart in helping to tackle illegal money lending in the UK.

"310,000 UK consumers are borrowing from illegal money lenders and as winter energy bills and Christmas approaches, it's important that those struggling financially do not enter into further hardship by using illegal money lenders.."

Rosie Cooper has teamed up with the Loan Smart charity to help people steer clear of illegal money lenders.

You can find the Loan Smart website at www.loansmart.org.uk.

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Council 'Clean & Green' service plan

FOLLOWING a review of ground maintenance and street cleansing services, West Lancs Council is considering plans to create a new 'Clean & Green' service.

At the authority's meeting next Wednesday, December 12 councillors will be asked to consider plans to restructure the service, creating more generic roles to enable staff to be upskilled to carry out a wide range of tasks from litter picking and grass cutting, to maintenance of shrubbery areas.

This will see staff working in neighbourhood teams, equipped to deliver a wide range of maintenance tasks within an area aimed at improving the local environmental quality.

Council chiefs believe a greater number of highly skilled staff will provide better resilience within the service to respond to issues that really matter to local residents.

If agreed, the service will be launched on April 1 next year.

Tasks will be delivered in-line with an agreed set of service standards, determining mechanical sweeping frequencies for street cleansing, regularise litter bin emptying and maintain grass cutting at a frequency of at least eight times in the season.

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Constabulary launches Christmas crackdown on drink and drug drivers

LANCASHIRE Constabulary has launched its annual campaign targeting drink and drug drivers this Christmas.

The festive crackdown will see high-profile enforcement activity taking place across the county throughout December, including checkpoints at key locations where officers will conduct drink and drugs tests.

Inspector Andy Trotter, of Lancashire Police, said: "We want people to have fun this Christmas but to remember the consequences of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

"If you drive at twice the legal alcohol limit you are at least 30 times more likely to cause a road collision than a driver who hasn't been drinking, potentially resulting in serious injury or death.

"A conviction could also mean that you lose your job, home, family and friends. The consequences can be absolutely devastating.

"We will be working throughout the festive period to keep the public safe and we want people to enjoy the festive season but our message is simple - do not drink and drive and do not take drugs and drive."

Last year more than 125 people were caught drink-driving in Lancashire during the force's Christmas drink drive campaign.

A total of 3,247 tests were administered throughout December with 126 people, or 3.9 per cent, failing the test or refusing to provide a specimen.

This year's crackdown will again see officers using saliva-testing kits alongside the standard breath tests. Motorists will be tested for alcohol and for drugs.

Lancashire Constabulary is warning motorists of the possible consequences of drink and drug driving.

More than 55 drug tests were conducted in 2017, with 30 out of 56 drivers failing the roadside tests.

Devastating

Inspector Trotter added: "We are determined to keep our roads safe, whether that is at night or the morning after and we will be working throughout the festive period to keep the public safe. We want people to enjoy the festive season but to remember the consequences of driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

"If you're out partying this Christmas then please plan ahead and book a taxi, check public transport times or don't drink. If you know of someone who is driving under the influence of drink or drugs then do the right thing and call the police before they kill themselves or somebody else."

Clive Grunshaw, Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, added: "Drink and drug-driving will never be tolerated here in Lancashire. Not only is it a crime, it can have devastating consequences and sadly year-on-year the results of these targeted campaigns highlight how much they're needed to help make Lancashire's roads as safe as possible."

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People's Vote Campaigners to set up stall in Ormskirk town centre as part of National Day of Action

GROUPS campaigning for a People's Vote on Brexit will be holding a stall in Ormskirk town centre on Saturday, December 8 as part of a National Day of Action across the UK.

The National Day of Action is being organised by activists and supporters from the People's Vote Campaign, just days before a crucial vote in Parliament on Tuesday, December 11 on the Government's Brexit plans.

The stall in Ormskirk will be positioned at the junction of Moor Street and Moorgate from 10am to noon and is one of a number of events taking place all over the country, with thousands of activists and supporters expected to be involved.

Ken Lamden taking part in a previous campaign event on the streets of Ormskirk.

Crucial

The National Day of Action follows the People's Vote Summer of Action, which saw rallies across the country, including in London, where the People's Vote March for the Future saw an estimated crowd of more than 700,000 take to the streets.

There will also be 11 regional flagship events throughout the country.

Organisers claim that opinion polls consistently show a clear majority of voters in most constituencies across Britain want their say on Brexit in a People's Vote.

Ken Lamden, team leader for People's Vote West Lancashire, said: "People don't just have to accept a bad Brexit, they can demand their voice is heard.

"In West Lancashire 59% of people support a final vote on the Brexit deal. The latest survey showed that 52% of people in West Lancashire want to remain in the EU. The public needs to have the final say on this crucial decision because, in the end, only the people can really sort this out."

Got a story? Ring the Champ News Desk on 01704 392400 or email us at editorial@champnews.com

Just a week left to have a say on Local Plan Review

WEST Lancs Council is reminding residents of the borough that the deadline for anyone wishing to give their views on the authority's Local Plan Review Preferred Options proposals is just over a week away.

The document is a long-term strategic plan which the council says aims to deliver new development to support the growth of the borough until 2050.

A public consultation period began on October 12 since when the council has held a series of public events where people could speak directly to a council officer about the plan. And although these have now been completed there is still time to give your views as the council extended the original deadline for comments to next Thursday, December 13

Key proposals include:

● New homes and employment space in and around Skelmersdale, including a plan to create three new Garden Villages and a Logistics Park alongside the M58. This proposal would make a significant contribution to the business case for creating a Skelmersdale Rail Link, the council says.

● A Knowledge Park and Student Accommodation Village on St Helens Road, Ormskirk, to attract new, hi-tech businesses to and provide purpose-built student accommodation to alleviate the demand for houses of multiple occupation, and the creation of new residential neighbourhoods to the south-east of Ormskirk and Aughton

● Allocation of land for smaller opportunities for new developments in the rest of the borough to meet local housing and employment needs.

Councillor John Hodson.

Some land currently designated as Green Belt will be released for development, but the council says the Preferred Options will also ensure that the rural areas of the borough will continue to be strongly protected from inappropriate development (more than 88% of West Lancashire will remain as Green Belt).

To read the Local Plan Review Preferred Options document, and for more information on the Local Plan Review, visit the council's website www.west-lancs.gov.uk/lpr, where you can also give your views to be considered as part of the consultation.

Printed copies of key consultation documents are also available at libraries and the council customer service points at the council's offices in Derby Street, Ormskirk and the Concourse shopping centre in Skelmersdale.

The easiest way to provide comments is online via the consultation web pages, but a standard form can also be downloaded from the website or picked up from the above locations.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "There is still time to give comments and I would urge people living and working in West Lancashire, and all other interested parties, to take part in this consultation.

"All reasonable views will be taken into consideration.

"As such, if people are opposed to a proposal, we would encourage them to set out the reasons for their concern, how they would change the policy they are opposed to and what site they would suggest the council should allocate instead of the one they might have concerns about."

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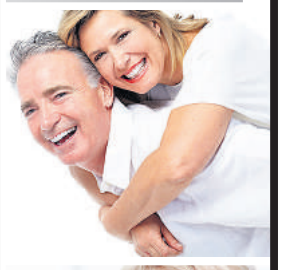
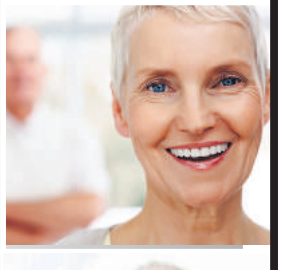
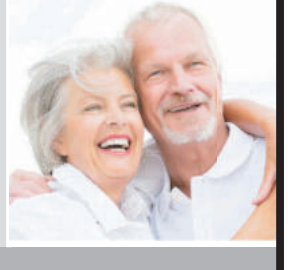

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It's more than just a passion...

Chemist dispenses generous gift to help fund defibrillator at community venue

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Peter Buckley (2nd left) presents the defibrillator to Mervyn Saunders of Parbold, Newburgh and district U3A with Mike Rhodes of the 4th Ormskirk Parbold Scouts and U3A committee members Tony Morris, Pam Ashton and Val Little looking on.

A LIFESAVING defibrillator has been installed in Parbold's 'Hut on The Hill' Scouts and Guides headquarters - thanks to the generosity of a local businessman.

The Parbold, Newburgh and District University of the Third Age (U3A), which meets at the hut, received £300 from Lancashire County Council towards the £950 cost of the equipment and planned a fundraising appeal to raise the remaining £650.

However, when chairman of the U3A group, Mervyn Saunders, told his friend Peter Buckley - who owns the John Halton chemists shop in the village - about the appeal he immediately offered to foot the outstanding amount himself!

The defibrillator will now be available for use by the local groups which meet at the hut, along with the Scouts and Guides.

Mervyn said: "When I mentioned to Peter about fundraising to buy the defibrillator and that we had applied to the county council for a grant to get it started, he very kindly offered to provide the money to complete the funding of the project.

"The Scouts committee provided a cabinet to house the equipment and the U3A purchased child-size chest pads so that the unit would suitable for all age groups who use the hut - although obviously we hope that the defibrillator never needs to be used!"

Meanwhile the Parbold Newburgh and District U3A welcomes new members. The group, which is seven years old, currently has nearly 200 members with 23 activity groups covering various subjects including art, county walks, bridge, creative writing, family history, hump, tai chi and many more.

Mervyn added: "If you are retired or semi-retired and interestered in joining us, please visit the Parbold, Newburgh and District U3A website for details. We would love to meet you soon."

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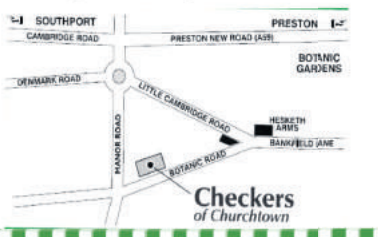

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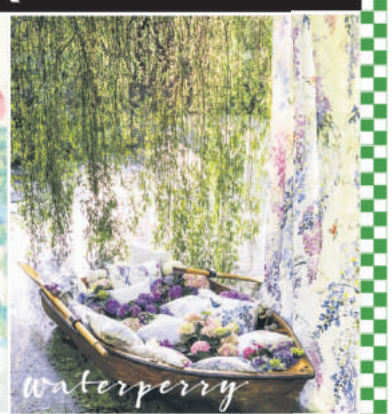

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Call for PM to give Northern the boot!

Report by **Kenny Parker**

ROSIE Cooper has called on the Prime Minister to end the misery of thousands of train passengers across the north and take the region's rail franchise off Northern.

During her slot at Prime Minister's Questions last Wednesday, the West Lancs MP challenged Theresa May to intervene and resolve the rail issues commuters have had to endure for most of 2018.

Northern have operated less than two-thirds of their scheduled services in the period from May 21 to November 24.

The Champion reported last week that Ormskirk Preston Southport Passenger Association had called on Ms Cooper to report the rail company to the Transport Select Committee.

The group said that since timetable changes in May, 33% of services on the line had been cancelled affecting many people's lives and the local economy.

Meanwhile the MP said that residents have written to her to complain about their "terrible" experiences on Northern trains, such as being left stranded on platforms due to the last train of the night being cancelled, losing their jobs due to being late for work and parents not seeing their children because of the additional commute times.

Rosie Cooper has called on the Prime Minister to remove the region's rail franchise from Northern after passengers endured a year of delays and cancellations.

In response, Theresa May said: "We know that passengers are currently not getting the service they deserve. We have asked Richard George to review the performance of the region's rail network and to make recommendations to improve reliability, and where operators are found to be at fault, we will take action."

Ms Cooper described this response as 'disappointing' adding: "I have been deluged with reports from residents about poor service, no service and no refunds for much of 2018.

"If Northern are only operating to a two-thirds capacity, then I believe passengers should not be forced to pay full price for their tickets.

"I don't believe that many politicians, including the Transport Secretary and the Prime Minister, realise how bad the situation is here in the North.

Misery

"Northern have a Government rail franchise and are simply not delivering and instead are causing misery for commuters and their families through their deplorable service.

"We had Monday Meltdown in May, but for my West Lancashire constituents there has not been an improvement as they're forced on to rail replacement buses, miss trains due to overcrowding and are being left stranded on station platforms.

"There is a duty to provide a rail service fit for the needs of passengers - passengers who pay their taxes and pay their fares but seemingly get nothing in return.

"It is time for the Prime Minister to step in and end the Northern franchise and fix this mess."

Northern have been contacted for a comment.

And just when you thought it couldn't get any worse...

Fares to rise again in January

LONG-suffering rail passengers have received another bodyblow with the news that fares are set to rise by an average of 3.1% in the new year.

The increases, which will come into effect from Wednesday, January 2, were announced by industry body the Rail Delivery Group, despite a year of disruption and cancellations.

Local train users have been particularly hard hit with Northern Rail regularly cancelling services due to a combination of timetable chaos, trains being out of service for repairs and its ongoing dispute with the RMT union resulting in numerous strikes.

Alex Hayman of consumer group *Which?* said the price rises across the country would only add to passengers' misery after a year of timetable chaos.

Fares on Merseyrail will rise in January in line with other operating companies, but bosses say it still offers 'some of the lowest fares' on the network.

He said: "Value for money needs to be a key part of the upcoming Government review and passengers must receive automatic compensation for delays and cancellations."

'Out of touch'

Shadow transport secretary Andy McDonald said the increase showed "a Government and rail industry out of touch with passenger concerns".

And RMT general secretary, Mick Cash labelled it "another kick in the teeth for passengers on Britain's rip-off privatised railways."

Meanwhile, bosses at Merseyrail have announced that its ticket prices will increase by an average of 2.9% in January adding that the company still offers 'some of the lowest fares on the railway'.

Its popular Day Saver ticket, which offers unlimited travel after 9.30am on weekdays and anytime on weekends and bank holidays, will rise by just 1.9% to £5.30 for an adult all-zone ticket. And the company's Family Ticket price will be frozen at £11 for the third consecutive year.

Merseyrail's commercial director, Suzanne Grant said: "Merseyrail continues to be the most affordable and the most punctual network in the country. 98% of fares are reinvested back in to the railway, which enables further improvements to be made to the network so that we can continue to deliver a reliable and robust service for our passengers."

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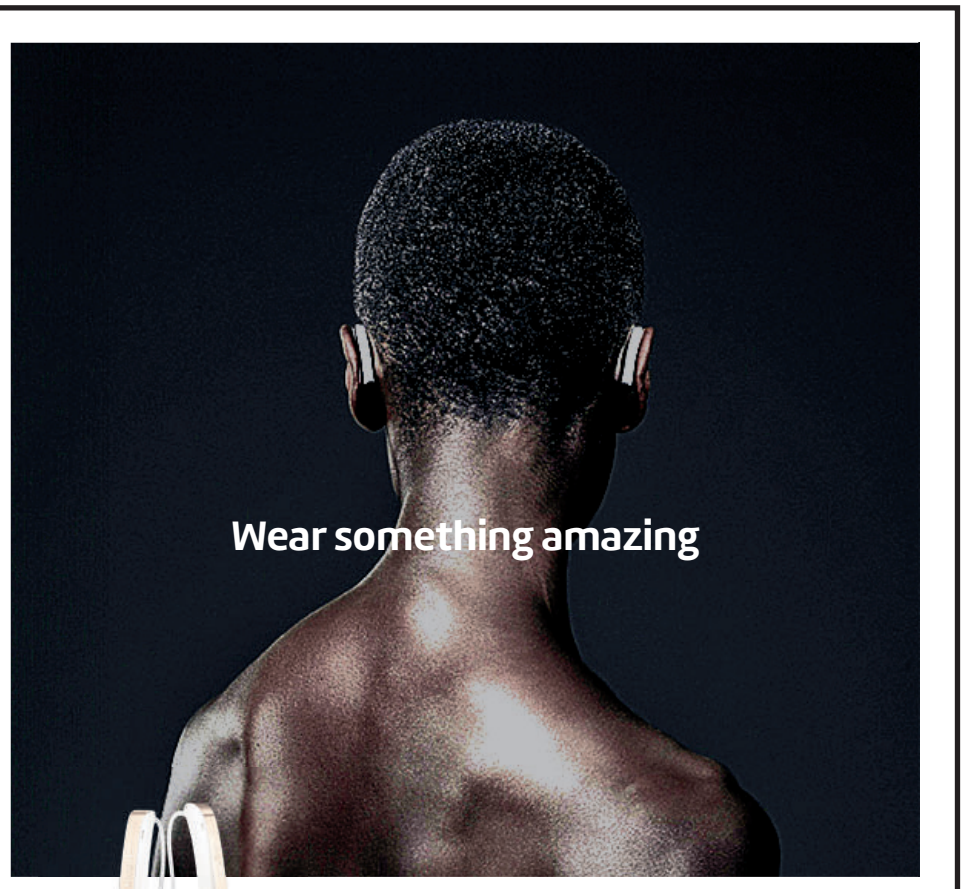

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WANT TO KNOW WHAT OUR READERS THINK?
See this week's letters on page 16

Council made £312,000 from parking fees last year

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancashire Borough Council made £312,000 from parking fees last year, according to new figures from the RAC Foundation.

Commenting on the figures a spokesman for West Lancs Council responded: "Charging people to use its off-street car parks helps the council to maintain them to a high standard and also contributes towards the lighting and monitoring of these off-street car parks by CCTV.

"These measures help our pay and display car parks achieve the Safer Parking Award, which is assessed by the British Parking Association (in partnership with the Association of Chief Police Officers). This confirms that the car parks are a safe place to park at all times.

"Money from parking charges also helps to pay for parking enforcement, which enables the council to regulate use of its off-street car parks, for example to ensure there is a constant turnover of spaces for shoppers on the short stay car parks and that spaces are not therefore taken up by long-stay parkers.

'Simplified'

"Enforcement also helps to ensure bays earmarked for specific users such as disabled people are available to them, that drivers park safely and properly within marked bays to make the maximum use of available space and not obstruct any access or circulation areas.

"The council has introduced new simplified parking charges and for just £1 drivers can now park on borough council-operated town-centre car parks for up to three hours.

"Penalty notices are only issued when drivers breach parking regulations. West Lancashire Borough Council is only responsible for parking charges and enforcement within its own off-street car parks.

"Responsibility for on street parking enforcement and maintenance of the adopted highways comes under the remit of Lancashire County Council.

"Details of the council's income and costs associated with off-street pay and display parking are published on the council website www.westlancs.gov.uk/parking."

...but authority offers special 'bonus' for drivers using its Ormskirk town centre sites over festive period

WEST Lancs Council is hoping to encourage more visitors to Ormskirk town centre over the festive period with a special parking offer.

From last Saturday (December 1) to Christmas Eve (Monday, December 24) inclusive, drivers who buy a pay and display ticket at one of the council's car parks in Ormskirk town centre will receive an additional two hours free parking.

The offer doesn't apply to the council offices car park on Derby Street.

Combined with recent changes to parking charges in the town centre car parks, this means drivers can park for up to five hours in all council-run car parks except Derby Street for just £1.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "Christmas is a very special time of year and this parking offer will be a great help to people and encourage them to spend time in Ormskirk this festive season."

Motorists should check the car park is council-controlled by checking the signage and that a valid paid for ticket is displayed accordingly.

The two extra free hours will not be shown on the ticket. So, a ticket bought at 10am for three hours parking the ticket will still show an expiry time of 1pm. However, during the special offer period, you will be able to park until 3pm.

Notices explaining the offer will be on display at the car parks and parking enforcement officers will allow for the extra two hours after the indicated ticket expiry time.

Drivers are reminded that parking is free on council car parks in Ormskirk town centre on Sundays and Bank Holidays throughout the year.

Councillor John Hodson.

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WWT

Martin Mere news

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Discover the amazing world of Whooper Swans at Martin Mere

Through the eyes of Virginia and Sigrunn, discover why Martin Mere is the only place in the North West that welcomes thousands of whooper swans over winter.

Every year, around 2,000 whooper swans migrate to WWT Martin Mere from Iceland and spend the winter on the mere. To celebrate these amazing swans, we've got a number of swan-themed activities at the centre from December to February.

In our Exhibition Hall we have our swan pipe experience which is a brilliant opportunity to put yourself in the place of a swan during a catch. You'll be able to go through a replica swan pipe, try on a swan jacket that we use to catch swans, learn how we take measurements including the wingspan of swans, weigh yourself in swan weight and create your own swan ring to keep as a souvenir of your experience.

You can also witness one of the most beautiful sights in nature as upto 2,000 Whooper swans come up close to the Discovery Hide for their daily feed at 3pm. Our rangers will tell you all about the swan's migration from Iceland and why Martin Mere is the perfect wintering spot, as well as lots of other facts about Whooper swans and our amazing Wetland Centre.

For younger ones curious about nature we have our Discovery Trail. Collect a booklet on arrival and explore our grounds to find the answers to questions such as how fast do swans fly and how far do they travel. Every child that completes the trail gets a sticker for their swan ID card. The discovery tail is a great way to spend some time exploring as a family and learning as you go.

As well as the discovery trail, you can learn all about WWT's conservation work both past, present and future by taking a look at the WWT Conservation Exhibition in our Exhibition Hall. WWT is a pioneer in wetland conservation - our scientists and conservationists have led the way for more than 70 years.

This winter, wrap up warm and come and enjoy the great outdoors at Martin Mere. You can find out more about A Tale of Two Swans and all our other events throughout the winter months at wwt.org.uk/martin-mere.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney and Lynne and Stuart Gray (front right) pictured with some of the contributors to the Images of Burscough and Surrounding Areas exhibition at The Stanley Club.

Heritage exhibition weekend success

600 visitors enjoy nostalgic trip down Memory Lane...

LOCAL heritage groups have enjoyed another successful weekend showing off their collections of photos, films and memorabilia.

Around 600 visitors attended a joint exhibition held at Burscough's Stanley Club on Saturday and Sunday, November 24 and 25 organised by Images of Burscough and Surrounding Areas, and featuring items supplied by Paul Smith Ormskirk Museum, Lathom and Burscough Military Heritage Society and the Ormskirk and District Family History Society.

The event, following a similarly well attended exhibition in March, was opened by the Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney along with Stuart and Lynne Gray relatives of Ernest Rosbottom author of *Burscough - The Story of an Agricultural Village*.

Ernest died in 1985 and the Grays gave permission for Images of Burscough founder Michael Dawson to access his archive.

The exhibition featured many previously unseen items with two eight-inch diameter mortar shells and other items from the siege of the original Lathom House (Lathom Castle) in 1644 proving particularly popular.

Michael Dawson said: "The weekend was a great success with around 600 people visiting the exhibition.

"Our thanks go to the Mayor, Councillor Noel Delaney, and to Stuart and Lynne Gray for opening the exhibition; and also to all the other groups that took part over the weekend.

"Lots of visitors brought along their photos for me to copy and many also donated photos and postcards which is always greatly appreciated."

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Local home care firm first in county to be awarded CQC double 'outstanding' rating

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN Ormskirk-based care business set up six years ago has become the first Lancashire home care provider to receive a double 'outstanding' rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the independent regulator of health and social care services in England.

In 2015, Home Instead Senior Care West Lancashire & Chorley, founded by local couple Gail and Robert Godson, was one of the first three adult social care services to be judged 'outstanding' under the CQC's then newly-introduced Ofsted-style inspection.

Now the company's latest inspection has reaffirmed the outstanding care provided to clients, with the team achieving 'outstanding' in four of the five key categories and 'good' in the other.

To date, only 3.3% of home care service locations in England have received the coveted CQC 'outstanding' rating.

Gail, who started her care career more than 30 years ago as a registered nurse at Ormskirk Hospital, said: "We employ the most amazing team who share our vision and values and it's thanks to their professionalism and support that we have been able to achieve this accolade and we would like to dedicate this tremendous achievement to all our current and former employees .

Home Instead Senior Care founders Robert and Gail Godson.

"Because the inspectors speak to clients, family members and local health professionals they can see the difference we make to people's lives. We thank them all for their continued support as we work to change the face of ageing in the local area."

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‘On call’ firefighters sought

LANCASHIRE Fire and Rescue Service is seeking to recruit part-time ‘on-call’ firefighters who will be available for emergencies.

The service is looking for self-motivated, enthusiastic individuals who are willing to serve their local community from Ormskirk and Skelmersdale fire stations. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and physically fit, and live or work within five minutes of the station which they would like to work from.

They must also commit to provide a minimum of 50 hours cover per week over days, nights and weekend, according to their availability.

On-call firefighters are paid a basic salary and will be trained to a high standard at the same time. Station drill nights are held every Wednesday from 7 to 9pm.

Retained Support Officer Dave Whitley said: “This role would be ideal for individuals who either work from home or work locally. ”

Anyone interested in applying can contact Dave Whitley on 07920 786807 or at Ormskirk Fire Station or 01695 572223 or Skelmersdale Fire Station on 01695 723853.

The closing date for applications is Friday, December 14.

Brighter future for village hall after £20k makeover

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE future of Westhead Village Hall is looking brighter thanks to a £20k makeover funded by the Whitemoss Community Fund.

The current trustees took over the management of the hall from St James Church, Westhead, nearly two years ago when they achieved charitable status.

The hall was built in 1929 and donated to the village by the Blundell family, especially for the Girl Guides and Westhead Mothers Union.

Only basic maintenance had been carried out over the years and the hall was said to have been desperately in need of being brought into the 21st century.

Various fundraising events were arranged and the trustees set about hiring out the hall on an hourly rate to regular users.

However, this was not enough to resolve the many issues so the group applied for grants and were successful in being awarded £19,734 from the Whitemoss Community Fund.

The fund, supplied by Whitemoss Landfill Limited which operates the landfill site in Skelmersdale, provides grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 for community and environmental projects located in the West Lancashire Borough Council area within five miles of the Whitemoss landfill site.

A recent Festive Lights and Arts afternoon at the revamped Westhead Village Hall.

Since 2010 over £500,000 which has been shared between 43 local projects.

The village hall trustees put the money to work by replacing windows and repairing the lintels around the main room. The central heating was also replaced with a modern system and the lighting was replaced with an LCD system.

The main entrance was completely renovated, all external doors were replaced, and the ladies toilets were also completely renovated with accessories enabling it to double as a disabled toilet.

In addition, 80 new chairs and tables were purchased.

A spokesperson for the trustees said that the majority of the work was done by trusted local trades people to an “exceptionally high standard” including painting and decorating which was donated by Skelmersdale-based Matt Valentine.

The spokesperson added: “Income from lettings has increased since this work was completed and the future of the hall looks bright for the coming years.”

Cancer charity fundraisers banking on support

A PAIR of bank workers are inviting the public’s support as they don fancy dress to spin-cycle a marathon in aid of Maggies’s Centres.

Ormskirk resident Lyndsey Griffiths and colleague Kayleigh Stevenson who work for Barclays Bank in Liverpool, will be taking part in the London Marathon next year for Maggie’s, which provides free practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer and their family and friends at 21 centres across the UK.

Lyndsey and Kayleigh are each attempting to raise a total of £3,000, which will be match-funded by Barclays and to get their fundraising underway they will be taking it in turns on a spin bike placed at Mylo & Co, located on Burscough Street, Ormskirk from 2pm on Saturday, December 8.

Colleagues from Barclays will also be selling raffle tickets with prizes including a stadium tour of Liverpool FC’s Anfield ground, vouchers for a hair salon, clothes shops, butchers, florists and personal trainer sessions and a comedy night and Prosecco.

Lyndsey said: “We are running the London Marathon in April 2019 to raise money for Maggie’s Centres. We have visited Maggie’s Centre and witnessed first-hand the amazing support that they offer for both cancer patients and families and friends.”

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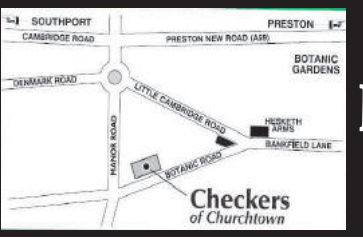

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Local Plan will contribute nothing to the regeneration of Skelmersdale and cause more travel and infrastructure problems

THE Local Plan Review Preferred Options plans an increase in housing requirement of 15,992 homes to 2050 in West Lancs, an increase of 35%, against a forecast by the Office of National Statistics to 2041 of a 2,809 increase, 6%.

This increase is based on new housing demand caused by the Skem rail link, (a red herring to join the now never-mentioned Ormskirk bypass and Skem town centre regeneration), projected major warehouse development due to the new Liverpool deep water port (Liiverpool City Region estimate it has 36% more suitable land available for this than required) and providing housing for surrounding boroughs with unmet housing needs (none of the surrounding boroughs have included this need in their plans.)

The plan claims in its Vision 'The regeneration of Skelmersdale in particular will be vital' and in its Strategic Policies 'The Regional Town (Skelmersdale) and the two Key Service Centres of the borough (Ormskirk & Burscough) will take the vast majority of new development.'

Despite this the plan is to build 6,000 houses in Green Belt land , defined as 'the most versatile agricultural land', well outside Skelmersdale, between Skelmersdale and Ormskirk in an area which does not have the infrastructure (roads, water and power utilities, schools etc.) to support them.

How can these developments be construed as contributing to the regeneration of Skelmersdale, and making Skelmersdale and the two key service centres as taking the vast majority of new development?

These 'garden villages' (what an awful euphemism) will soak up all the funds they generate in providing services and infrastructure for them whilst permanently destroying what could in the near future be vital agricultural land.

In addition, travel between Skelmersdale, Ormskirk and Southport, and access to the motorway system, already difficult, will be near impossible. Imagine a further 9,000 vehicles, upward of 18,000 people (plus those trying to access the M58 from the expansions in Burscough) using Hall Lane, Plough Lane , Spa Lane, Wigan Road, Lyelake Lane and St Helens Road, on a daily basis. Imagine trying to access Ormskirk and Southport hospitals.

And why? The main beneficiaries will be landowners and developers, who have been working on this plan longer than West Lancs Council and are salivating at the prospect.

The plan will do nothing for the regeneration of Skelmersdale and will in fact make it more difficult due to the travel problems it will cause and the need to provide infrastructure to these developments.

Come on the people of Skelmersdale, demand of your councillors the developments which will contribute to the regeneration of Skelmersdale and the provision of affordable housing in the town.

Chris Dixon, Lathom.

Poorly displayed house numbers a nightmare for delivery workers

I WOULD just like to make comment with regards to a delivery job a relative of mine has just started and how difficult it is for them to find the correct houses as the house numbers are not visible.

For example, in Long Lane and Ruff Lane in Ormskirk, the hedges are so high you are unable to see house numbers unless you walk down someone's driveway. This might be someone you are not delivering to but you have to see what number you are at.

In Skelmersdale, a lot of the numbers look like they have just been thrown up, are hanging loose or are missing.

I just thought that at this time of year when a lot of people are expecting deliveries, if people don't want their parcels or post getting lost, I think they should be a bit more thoughtful about displaying their house numbers, which in some cases could easily be put on their gates.

Janet Beament, by email.

Do we really want to change the nature of West Lancs forever?

I HAVE three comments about the West Lancs Local Plan Review.

The local plan anticipates the construction of 16,000 houses (dwellings) the equivalent of approximately 40,000 people.

The developments are to be in or near Skelmersdale, Burscough, Ormskirk and Aughton. The total population of these four towns is about 80,000.

Therefore, the plan is to build houses for an extra 50% population increase. As a comparison, the population of the UK is 66million. Are we anticipating that this will increase to 100 million over the same period? Do we want to change permanently the nature of West Lancashire?

Much, if not most of the houses are to be on Green Belt land, most of which is prime arable farmland. Given that Brexit is occurring, I would have thought that we will be needing to grow more of our own food in the future, not less.

One of the areas to be given up to the future housing is that which borders Altys Lane and Black Moss Lane. This is precisely the area which helps the run-off of water which feeds the Sandy Brook/Hurlston Brook.

This brook is prone to flooding Altys Lane, Dyers Lane and other adjacent roads (as occurred in 2015). It was bad enough then. It has the potential to be catastrophic in the future if the housing goes ahead in this area.

Chris Bowman, Ormskirk.

■ *IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?*

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of Page 17 and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume or one may be provided for them.

Send your letters to: The Editor, Champion Newspapers, Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

No benefits for Skem

COUNCILLOR Ron Cooper (Letters, November 28) spends more energy in playing party politics than he does in setting out the benefits of the Local Plan for his Tanhouse constituents.

That is perhaps because there are none, and if his party's 'ambitious' plan is implemented then the people of Skelmersdale will once again be left behind when it comes to investment.

Many of us have come from working backgrounds and will now see our hard-earned investment in our homes and livelihoods destroyed. Our own councillor is Labour, but he does not support the direction that this plan sets out for the next 32 years, recognising the damage it will bring across the whole borough.

I agree that we do not need more executive homes, but that is exactly what the proposed 'Garden Villages' will deliver and it is the Labour party that will be lining the developers' pockets at the expense of the rural landscape that all can enjoy.

I also encourage Cllr. Cooper to explain to his electorate how the Local Plan will directly benefit Skelmersdale residents. Maybe it is the Lidl or B&M stores that will regenerate the town centre or the prophecy of a new rail station. It certainly won't benefit from more than 7,000 extra houses on its doorstep and only the prospect of a warehouse job to provide a living wage. That is what his council is offering the people of Tanhouse and Skelmersdale.

New Skelmersdale resident, details supplied.

Jim's right about May's climbdown

WELL said, Jim Sharpe (Champion 21st November).

Amazingly Mrs May has continued to get acclaim from the media, despite a humiliating climbdown in Brexit negotiations.

Amazing because she has ineptly played a hand that included being in charge of a country with the fifth largest economy in the world and the second largest in the EU itself; a country that is bigger in economic terms than 19 of the lower-ranked EU member states put together; and a country that takes in one-sixth of all the goods and services sold between EU members.

That last fact alone should have ensured a trade deal being agreed. A genuine threat to leave without a deal having been struck would have had exporters in all states crying out in protest at the hard line pursued by their EU negotiators.

The May deal is a massive sell-out on the economic side of things. But it's even worse from the political perspective.

The Brexit vote was a clear response to a clear question. Yet unbelievably the May deal would actually not take the UK out of the EU.

Instead it removes from the UK the freedom the UK and all other member states have currently, which is the freedom to leave. In future we couldn't leave without the EU's say so!

S. C., Town Green, details supplied.

We agree with the county council decision to remove these 'unnecessary' obstructions

FURTHER to your article (Page 9, Skelmersdale Champion, November 21) as residents of Roby Mill we would like to reply.

Firstly we can only conclude that the 'angry resident' is the person who wasted our money by having the bollards erected originally.

If the police are so concerned about pedestrians' safety, how about the lack of adequate footways from the Star Inn to the Fox Inn?

Where the bollards have been placed was the only part of the footway that was of standard width (that was until the bollards were erected).

We agree with the county council that the obstructions should be removed.

We also think that the cost of the wasted monetary resources should be passed to the parties who wanted the bollards in the first place as it was at their instigation that this issue arose.

Allan and Hilary Foster, Roby Mill.

PICTURE of the week

The Douglas Cardiac Trust Christmas Tree lights up Tarleton's Mark Square shopping area. Last Friday's switch-on, sponsored by the local business and retail community, is one of the main fundraising activities of the Trust and provides support for portable defibrillators and first responders in Tarleton, Hesketh Bank and Banks. Picture by Martyn Snape.

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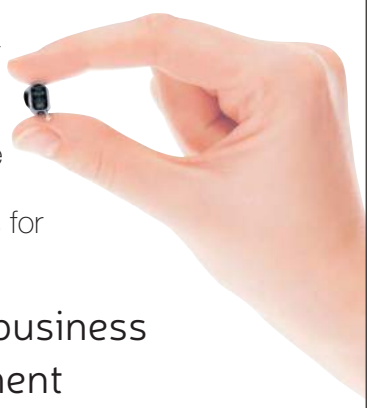

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County council vows to support those affected by Allied Healthcare 'failure'

LANCASHIRE County Council is reassuring local people who currently receive home care from Allied Healthcare that they will continue to get the support they need - despite a public announcement by the company of its intention to end its involvement in the UK home care sector by mid-December.

Allied Homecare currently supports around 220 people across the county including West Lancas, the majority of which are older people or adults with a physical disability.

About 160 of these have their care funded and commissioned by the county council's adult social care service.

The company currently employs 105 staff across the county, most of whom work as home carers.

On November, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) had issued a warning to 84 councils relating to a 'credible risk of business failure of Allied Healthcare services'.

Since then, the county council has been monitoring the situation and putting contingency plans in place to ensure people receive support if needed. And following the news that Allied Healthcare is seeking a buyer for its home care business, county council social work teams have already written letters to the 220 people affected.

Staff are now following up by telephone or home visits. The aim is to arrange for some of the council's other home care suppliers to step in as quickly as possible to meet their care and support needs.

County Councillor Graham Gooch.

County Councillor Graham Gooch, Lancashire's cabinet member for adult services, said: "First and foremost, we want to reassure everyone who currently receives their home care from Allied Healthcare that they will still get the support they need to live safely in their home.

"We also want to reassure Allied Healthcare's Lancashire-based staff that we are working closely with their local managers and the new home care providers. We want to encourage them to continue in their vital roles as home carers and we will do everything we can to see that their employment rights under TUPE legislation are respected as they transfer to new employers.

"We have been working with national bodies such as the CQC and the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure we have robust local contingency plans in place. Now that Allied has confirmed its intentions, we are planning to move everyone who receives home care from them to new providers.

"We cannot wait for Allied Healthcare to conclude negotiations with other companies to sell its business. We are working closely with existing Lancashire-based, CQC-rated 'good' home care agencies with whom we already hold contracts so that they can take on this work.

"We're also offering help to people who pay for the care themselves or use direct social care payments to find new care providers. People's safety and wellbeing is our top priority and our highly-trained teams will arrange alternative care as quickly as possible with the aim of minimising disruption to people's care and support.

"We're here to help and would urge people who may be affected by this news to contact us if they have any questions or concerns"

Anyone requiring more information can contact the county council on 0300 123 6720.

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Champion distributor David has new single produced by university recording company

A TALENTED musician and student from Ormskirk is enjoying national 'air time' after being the first to have his single produced entirely by current students at Edge Hill University's own recording company.

David Hughes, who also delivers the Champion, performs under the project name Charity Shop Pop. He makes experimental pop music by bringing in influences from the indie music scene and mixing ambient and electronic sounds from various other genres.

The 23-year-old singer-songwriter has already performed at numerous Liverpool venues and had his music played on BBC radio.

And earlier this year he was chosen for the Merseyrail Sound Station, an innovative project aimed at developing the careers of promising artists, which saw him perform live at Liverpool Central railway station in September.

Now his new song, *Always You*, has been produced solely by students at The Label Recordings, Edge Hill's independent label set up to promote existing new music and provide students considering a career in the competitive industry some real hands-on experience.

David Hughes whose new song, produced by Edge Hill University's Label Recordings, is already receiving national 'air' time ahead of its official release.

And first year film and TV production student, Natalie Cannell documented the recording session with video and still photographs, one of which has been used on the CD version of the single.

Label Recordings creative director and media lecturer, Carl Hunter said: "The ethos of the Label is to find the best emerging talent to work with. There is absolutely no requirement for artists to be connected with Edge Hill in any way, so it is a tribute to David's abilities that his music has been selected to be developed professionally and launched into the world."

Former Ormskirk School pupil David, a music production student, said: "Thanks to the support of the university, I was given the opportunity to go to Parr Street Studios (where Coldplay and Blossoms have recorded) and record my new single for release on The Label Recordings. Spending the day in the studio recording and perfecting my track with industry experts, while having my course mates helping out, was very beneficial. I learned a lot about how a record gets put together.

"It was a long and tiring day but also the best experience I've ever had and I have ended up with a song that is getting national radio and press coverage and gaining new listeners and fans."

Always You is officially released on Friday, December 7 and can be downloaded from Amazon, Spotify, iTunes and other channels. It can also be heard now at https://soundcloud.com/.

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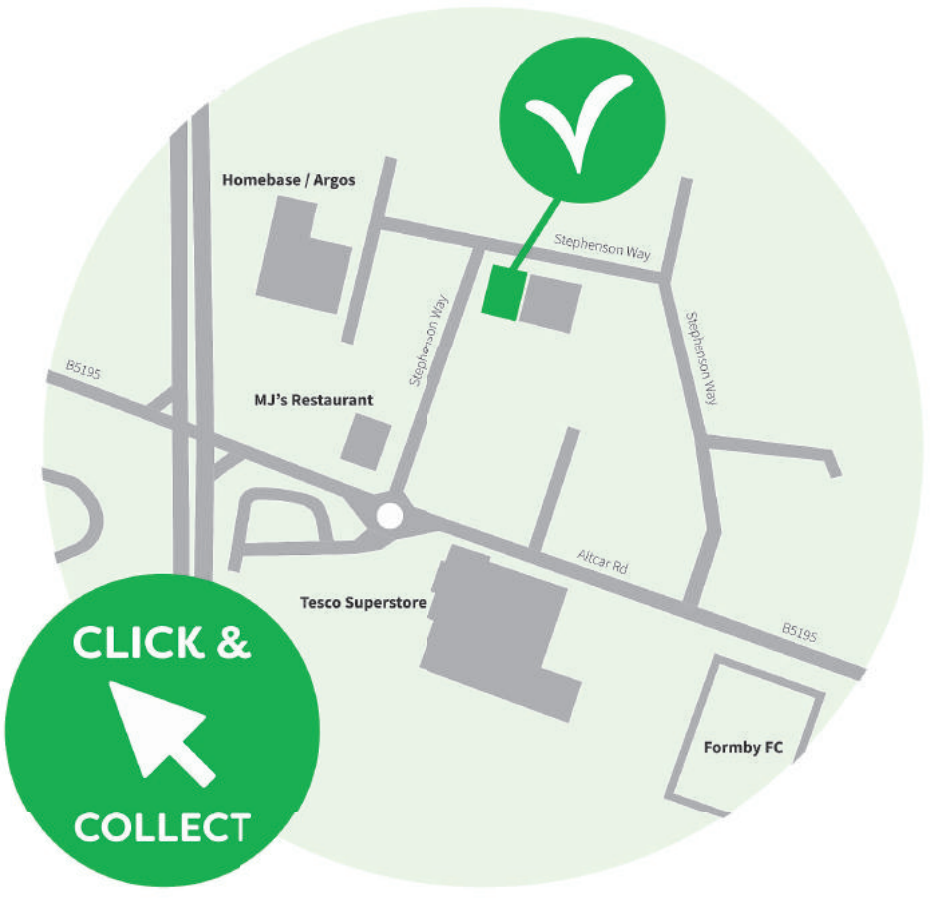

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West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper pictured with members of the 45th Ormskirk Scouts.

MP is awarded first Scouts badge

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has been awarded her first Scouts badge after going along to give local members of the organisation an insight into her work.

The visit was arranged as part of UK Parliament Week which aims to engage young people and those from different backgrounds and communities, with the work of Parliament.

Jane Lea, assistant leader of the 45th Ormskirk Scouts, based at Burscough Methodist Church, Orrell Lane, invited the MP along to take part in a question-and-answer session with the Scouts at their regular Thursday night meeting, following which they presented her with her badge.

Ms Cooper MP said: "I welcome the involvement of young people in West Lancashire during UK Parliament Week 2018. I am determined to ensure that our voters and citizens of tomorrow understand how vital their participation is in our democracy and I'm excited to see so many schools, Girl Guides, Scouts and local groups taking part.

"I was delighted to be asked along to meet the Scouts and tell them about my role, my time in Parliament and some of the quirks of the House of Commons.

"The young people were a credit to Scouting and I was pleased to receive my very first Scout badge at the end of the meeting."

Care trust recognised for commitment to diversity

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust has been listed within the top three NHS trusts in the UK's Top 50 Employers, for its work in demonstrating a diverse and inclusive workplace.

This is the third year in a row that the trust has been listed within 'The Inclusive Top 50 UK Employers' .

It is up four places and has been ranked number 20 out of 50 organisations in the UK for their outstanding efforts and commitment to attracting and retaining a truly diverse workforce.

Compiled by a dedicated panel of judges, the list has been collated based on organisations' performance on a range of areas within the diversity arena including recruitment procedures, training and other diversity-related initiatives.

Emma Allen, Equality and Diversity lead at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "This is our third year on the list and we are creeping up each year, which is a really positive reflection of the hard work we do to make our organisation as inclusive and accessible as possible for a wide range of people.

"Being on the list allows us to benchmark ourselves against other inclusive companies and the events run by the Inclusive Employers team throughout the year allow all of us to share knowledge of best practice and adapt that learning back in our own places of work.

"The list has a mixture of public, private and third sector organisations and it can be really helpful to see things from a range of perspectives so we can be more innovative in our approach to equality, diversity and inclusion."

Jo Harrison, Emma Dawkins, Emma Allen and Deb Cox from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Pupils' trip back in time to learn about wartime exploits

PUPILS at a Skelmersdale school took a trip back in time to 1939 as part of a themed World War week.

The youngsters at Delph Side Community Primary took part in a cross-curricular week of activities learning about the D-Day landings, what happened on 'the home front', the Battle of Britain and many more aspects of what was such a momentous era in the country's history.

They even created a superb Remembrance display in the school hall, to remember all those who served and those who are still serving in the Armed Forces.

Ian Morris, Year 6 teacher at the school in Eskdale, said: "The children have loved every minute of their learning and can't wait for our next theme week."

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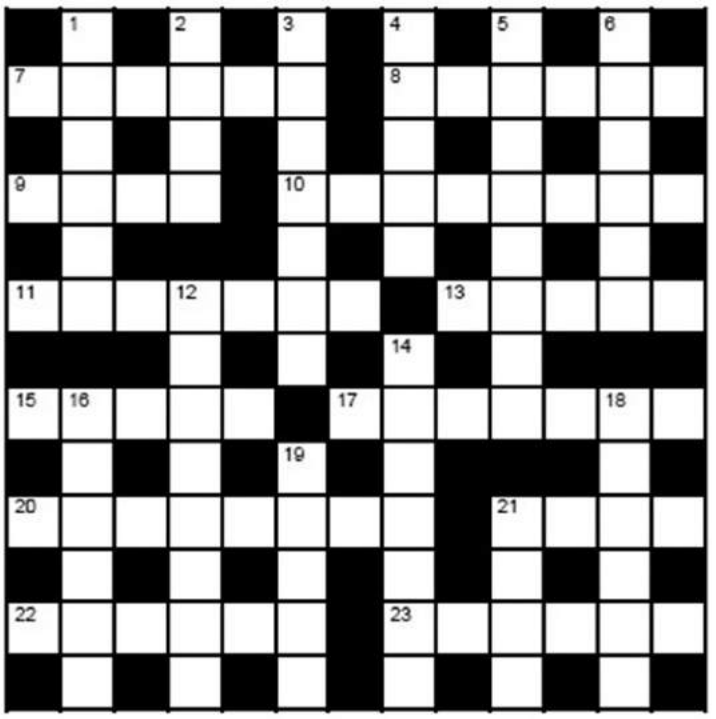

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Indigo. 8. Glower. 9. Heat. 10. Spoonfed. 11. Psychic. 13. Beret. 15. Prune. 16. Toy With. 18. Small Fry. 19. Idol. 21. Veggie. 22. Exhort.

Down: 1. Ante. 2. Biotechnology. 3. Corsair. 4. Igloo. 5. Counterweight. 6. Reverent. 12. Strimmer. 14. Holy See. 17. Offer. 20. Ogre.

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ACROSS

7. Word describing something that has been taken without permission (6)
8. A pause or break in continuity in a sequence or activity (6)
9. Sight, perspective (4)
10. Board game in which players engage in simulated property and financial dealings (8)
11. Process of making designs on metal, glass, etc., by the corrosive action of acid (7)
13. Move back and forth or from side to side while suspended or on an axis (5)
15. To stay longer than expected (5)
17. Way of life in which people are caught up in a fierce struggle for wealth or power (3, 4)
20. Informal term for elaborate or excessively applied make-up (8)
21. Clean or dry (something) by rubbing with a cloth (4)
22. (Of time) to pass or go by (6)
23. Show or announce publicly for the first time (6)

DOWN

1. Stern, uncompromising (6)
2. Not quick (4)
3. Genus of about 200 species of flowering plants (7)
4. High quality porcelain (5)
5. The number of people working or available for work or service (8)
6. Ireland's capital city (6)
12. Dance associated with sailors (8)
14. Proud or superior manner (7)
16. (Of land) used or suitable for growing crops (6)
18. Knockout game between two teams, especially in football (3, 3)
19. Vertical section between the treads of a staircase (5)
21. Move one's hand to and fro in greeting or as a signal (4)

Cafe's 'angelic' gesture for foodbank

THE owners of a family eaterie are aiming to do their bit to help the needy this Christmas by selling homemade variations of a local speciality.

Dempsey's Cafe, in Burscough Street, Ormskirk is selling traditional Ormskirk Gingerbread Angels for 50p each with all proceeds going to the Ormskirk Foodbank.

The cafe also recently played a part in the town's First World War Remembrance by providing materials for people to make poppies in memory of servicemen from the area who died in the war. Local history group, Ormskirk Bygone Times, supplied the names of more than 600 West Lancs servicemen and members of the community then made up poppies dedicated to each to create a wreath which was placed on the Ormskirk war memorial.

Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Noel Delaney and Ann Stubbert, with guests at the tea party.

Mayor hosts tea party to celebrate royal milestone

MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney hosted a special celebration to mark Prince Charles' 70th birthday.

Residents of the borough who also turned 70 this year were invited to an afternoon tea in the Mayor's Room to mark the Prince's milestone.

A total of 20 guests attended and enjoyed chatting with the civic couple and fellow septuagenarians, while some met up with old friends they hadn't seen for years.

The event was organised by West Lancs Council as a member of the National Association of Civic Officers and photos from the event are likely to appear in an album to be sent to Prince Charles featuring similar parties that took place across the country to mark the occasion.

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Breathe Easy group learns about dangers of asbestos and mesothelioma victims' fight for compensation

JOHN Flanagan from the Merseyside Asbestos Victim Support group (MAVS) was guest speaker at the November meeting of West Lancashire and Southport Breathe Easy group.

As part of his talk John showed members a film tracing the history of asbestos, from when it was believed to be an excellent, safe product with a huge variety of household and industrial uses, to the dawning of awareness by the authorities of its inherent dangers.

The film also covered the long fight for compensation by sufferers of mesothelioma - an asbestos-related cancer affecting the linings of the lungs or abdomen - and their families.

Unfortunately, the problem continues today, with more than 2,000 new cases per annum assessed for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

And there continue to be more than 2,500 deaths per year in Great Britain from mesothelioma which takes many years to develop following the inhalation of asbestos fibres.

Annual deaths increased sharply in Britain over the last 50 years, a consequence of mainly occupational asbestos exposures that occurred because of the widespread industrial use of asbestos from the 1950s to 1980 with those who worked in the electrical and motor trades also at risk.

John explained the work of MAVS in supporting victims and their families and also the importance of lobbying, both nationally and internationally.

Unfortunately he had more to tell than time allowed and he has agreed to return next year to speak again when he will talk about where asbestos 'hides' in both residential and industrial properties.

The group meets on the third Monday of each month - except December - at the Girl Guide HQ, Green Lane, Ormskirk, from 11 am to about 12.30 pm. New members are always welcome. For more details or to find out about the groups which meet in Formby and Skelmersdale, phone Trish on 07528 702 203.

John Flanagan from Merseyside Asbestos Victim Support and group member Pauline Fortune.

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MONDAY
LYDIATE
Mersey Motor Boat Club
36 Pilling Lane, Lydiate L31 4HF
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
9am & 11am
Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club,
Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY
CHESHIRE LINES
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
5pm & 7pm
Sheila: 07827 335824

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Cricket Club,
Blaguegate Lane
9am & 11am
Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY
MELLING
Melling Residents Community Association
(Ratepayers Club)
Melling
5pm & 7pm
Katie: 07469 193445

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
9.30am
Sheila: 07827 335824

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club,
Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club,
Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
UpHolland Methodist Church,
Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club
School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall,
Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church),
Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
9.30am, 11.30am
Sarah: 07792 146342

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Sarah: 07792 146342

FRIDAY
ORMSKIRK
New Pavilion
Ormskirk Cricket Club
Altys Lane
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane
(behind Fun Factor)
9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY
KIRKBY
St. Martins Church
Peatwood Avenue
7.30am & 9.30am
Emma: 07414 223617

OLD SKELMERSDALE
Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close
(Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School,
Aughton Street
8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
Sefton Lane (behind Fun Factor)
8.30am & 10.30am
Gill: 07921 222405

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Edge Hill teams up with Tate

University and gallery combine to deliver ground-breaking educational art project

EDGE Hill University is teaming up with Tate Liverpool to deliver a ground-breaking educational programme that uses iconic artworks in new ways.

From spring 2019 the institutions will begin their Schools in Residence programme.

Hosted in Tate Liverpool's art display Ideas Depot, it invites children, staff, and students from City Region schools to use the gallery as a learning resource where they will spend a week in residence and their curriculum will be delivered using exhibited artwork as a way of teaching core subjects.

Ideas Depot features artists such as Salvador Dali, Mona Hatoum, Henri Matisse, and Chris Ofili and is a colourful and inviting space showing iconic paintings, sculptures, and photographs from the Tate collection of modern and contemporary art.

Pupils and their teacher will visit the gallery to select the works to display during their residency.

'Exciting'

The display has been developed in parallel with the initial phases of research the Ormskirk university's Faculty of Education is undertaking with Tate Liverpool and this innovative education and community project aims to inform gallery learning approaches.

The project aims to explore new ways for schools to enhance and enrich teaching and learning, and for teachers, children and their families to enjoy and develop a sense of 'ownership' of museum and gallery spaces.

The Schools in Residence programme is the product of many months of work and pilot projects.

Dr Helen O'Keeffe, Associate Dean of Edge Hill's Faculty of Education, said: "Ideas Depot is an exciting and innovative display which it is hoped will support teachers, children and their families to connect with new and different artworks, seeing how they link to their own lives and school curriculum.

"The residencies are being developed as a response to the external funding pressures on arts subjects in the curriculum and this helps us to explore a sustainable model where arts learning is embedded into planning. We want teachers to feel confident in using the gallery independently and in creative ways in their teaching."

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Representatives of Amplify Youth Group, The John Marshall Fund and Twinkle House receive a cheque at the Co-op store on Wigan Road, Ormskirk.

Early Christmas gifts for local good causes

GOOD causes in West Lancashire have been handed a total of more than £30,000 in the latest round of hand-outs by the Co-op's Local Commnity Fund.

The fund works by members of the Co-op nominating their favoured good cause to receive 1% of any money they spend at Co-op stores with the funds distrbuted in June and November.

Local causes to receive funds in the latest round are Friends of Tarleton Holy Trinity Church CE Primary School (£6,542.15); West Lancs and Sefton Myeloma Support Group (£7,022.61); Amplify Youth Group (£3,454.46); 1st Ormskirk Scout Group (£6,284.16); The John Marshall Fund (£3,774.65); and Twinkle House, Skelmersdale (£4,029.52).

Rebecca Birkbeck, director of community engagement at the Co-op, said: "Since the launch of the local community fund our members have helped 12,000 organisations to make a positive difference in their neighbourhoods, and in the last 12 months alone we have invested £19m in local causes.

"The fund is now supporting a wide variety of local organisations all of which are helping to make West Lancashire a better, happier and healthier place to live."

Volunteers wanted for hospice Santa Sprint

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help out at Queenscourt Hospice's annual Santa Sprint.

The fun run, which will take place on Sunday, December 16, needs volunteers to marshal the route, provide assistance to spectators and cheer the runners on.

This will be the ninth year of the event and to celebrate there will be a 5K and a 3K course.

Every participant will receive a Santa suit to wear as they sprint, jog or amble their way along the route which starts at Southport Pier.

All participants will also receive a medal and a complimentary hot drink.

Rachael West, volunteer and citizenship worker with Volunteer Centre Sefton, said: "Queenscourt Hospice provides an invaluable service to Southport and West Lancashire residents with serious illnesses by enabling them to achieve the best possible quality of life. The Santa Sprint is a great way to raise money for this really worthwhile local cause."

For more information email Katy Pellow at volunteers@queenscourt.org.uk or call 01704 544645.

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Public invited to council meeting

WEST Lancs Council is inviting members of the public to attend the next meeting of its corporate and environmental overview and scrutiny committee to be held tomorrow (Thursday, December 6) at the council offices, starting at 7pm.

Councillor Nikki Hennessy said: "People living and working in West Lancashire are welcome to come along to the meeting and listen to discussions on these very important topics for the council.

"Items for consideration include looking at the council's performance in a variety of services from housing repairs and waste collection to visitor numbers to our leisure and cultural facilities.

"An item has also been included on the agenda at the request of a member to discuss ongoing planning issues."

The agenda for the meeting is published on the council website www.westlancs.gov.uk/coins where people can find out more information about individual reports.

With a little 'inspired fiddling' things can sometimes end butter side up!

ONE MAN and his dog with JIM SHARPE

TOAST - everyone's favourite at breakfast, except me. Not that I have anything against toast, it's simply that I don't like it that much that I can be bothered making it.

For me, unhealthy though I suppose it is, I prefer fried bread (but brown) to mop up the egg, and ordinary brown bread and butter with my marmalade.

But if I were regularly to toast bread, I'd bet a pound of butter to a blob of jam that were I to drop said toast onto the floor, it would indeed land butter side down. Actually, I believe this phenomena is all down to dynamics and weight, but whatever the odds, I'd bet mine would be dusty toast every time.

Of course, toast is by no means the only object that can behave in this anomalous way. Just this evening I experienced a 'butter side down' catastrophe at the end of a really good dinner.

I had been given a couple of plump pigeon breasts by a friend, which I lightly fried with chopped leeks in olive oil and butter, served with pasta and Brussels sprouts.

And for pud I had the choice of profiteroles and chocolate sauce, or strawberries and cream, bought at a supermarket where this delightful combo was being sold basically as part of their three-option 'Meal Deal' for just £1 - which seemed too good to pass up.

In the end, greedy Jim got the better of me so I decided to use half of the profiteroles and just a few of the strawberries, along with half of the cream, the other half being destined for my coffee. Yum, yum! Profiteroles, dark chocolate sauce, strawberries and extra cream - I was really looking forward to it in a kind of guilty way.

But for a clumsy clod such as I, there was a problem.

The cream was supplied in a small plastic cup built into the lid of the strawberry container with - to me at least - no obvious method of getting at its contents.

Brute force often works so I tried pushing it up from below. Big mistake. I got the cream alright - half it on my trousers and the cooker top! As a consolation there was (almost) enough left for my coffee. 'Oh dear' I said, or something rather like that anyway.

A similar thing happened during one of my cruises on the Norfolk Broads. I was taking my normal pills to cut cholesterol or something from one of those stupid metallic strips (why can't they put pills in little bottles like they used to?) when, predictably, it slipped through my fingers onto the galley floor.

It shouldn't really have been a problem, except that the damned thing found the one gap to allow it to fall into the bilge. That incident could have been disastrous had that pill been vital to life, because I only had sufficient supply for my expected stay plus a couple of emergency 'spares'.

And again on my boat - though this could apply to anyone using a gas cooker - there was the case of the non-working stove.

I had asked for my *Manxman* to have a thorough deep clean for the start of the season and when I boarded for the first trip of the year I was delighted at the state she was in inside. The cooker was gleaming as new.

But pleasure turned to annoyance when I discovered that two of its four rings would not stay alight, and neither would the oven.

The boatyard who had done the cleaning were mystified as to why the cooker was misbehaving until, by chance, someone removed the control knobs and from each dropped a small springy thing.

Reassembled, everything but one obstinate ring was working. It was then the penny dropped. The springy thing could be put in two ways round but only one way allowed the flame to stay alight.

Which just goes to show - fate may seem against you, but a little intelligent fiddling can just sometimes keep the butter face side up.

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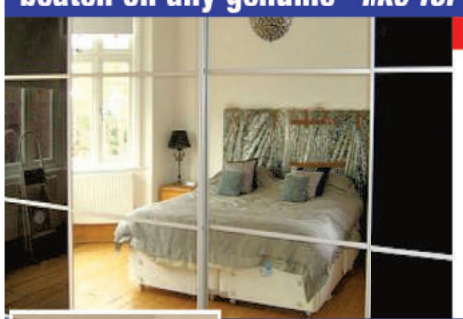

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Dr Marius McGovern, clinical director at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa

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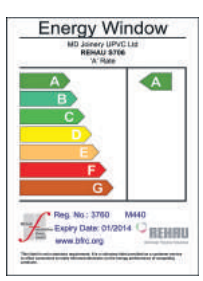

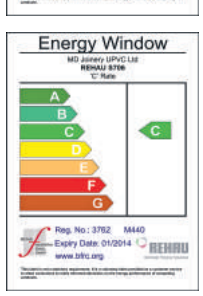

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Buster helps to teach primary pupils the bear essentials of site safety!

PRIMARY school pupils have been learning how to 'play safe' with the help of housebuilder Redrow and a cuddly mascot!

Buster Bear, one of the housebuilder's health and safety mascots, visited Burscough Village Primary School along with staff from the company's The Grange development at nearby Yew Tree Park to teach the children about how to stay safe near construction sites.

Headteacher, Anna Smith, said: "It was really useful and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

"It was also health and safety week in school so the visit linked perfectly with that and we talked about keeping safe generally and the importance of reflective clothing, especially with the darker nights now."

Redrow's Michael Cheyne, Ciara Banks and 'Buster' helping to get the safety message across at Burscough Village Primary School.

School to host Christmas 'tree of remembrance' event for local community

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A PRIMARY school in Ormskirk will be opening its doors to the community for a day for local residents to remember loved ones who are no longer with them by placing an inscribed bauble on a special Memory Tree.

The event, running from 1.30 to 7.30pm on Monday, December 17, has been organised by West End Primary School in conjunction with Portico Nursery based in the school's grounds in Grimshaw Lane.

It was inspired by the parent of a pupil who had met a lady who had lost her husband this year and was dreading her first Christmas without him. As the couple did not have children she was worried her husband would be forgotten.

Visitors will be provided with baubles to place on the tree in the school's assembly hall, on which they can write a message or simply a name.

They will also be offered a hot drink and the chance to sit for a while and chat.

Pupils and youngsters from the school and nursery will also read poems and sing and dance around the tree at various times throughout the last week of term.

Headteacher, Phil Clarke, said: "As a community school we always offer a warm welcome. With so many performances, parties and celebrations happening during this very busy time in our school term, it's absolutely right that we take the time to think of others."

And Amanda Wiley, manager of Portico at West End Nursery, added: "We are delighted to be a part of such a wonderful gesture to our community."

Children's mental health project in running for award

A FLAGSHIP children's mental health programme delivered by Edge Hill University in partnership with football club charity, Everton in the Community, has been recognised for its positive impact across Merseyside.

Tackling the Blues (TtB), a sport and education-based project, has been shortlisted by the UK Sports Journalists Association in their 'Sport for Social Change' category at the British Sports Awards.

The winner will be announced at an ceremony at the Tower of London tomorrow (Thursday, December 6).

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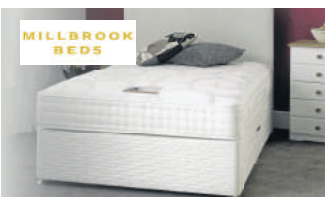

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Rugby club youngsters unveil new sponsored strip

MEMBERS of Tarleton Rugby Club's under-14s have proudly unveiled their new playing strip for sponsors, parents and supporters.

New sponsors, Tarleton Mortgage Centre, Southport Lions Club, The Mirror Booth Company and Little Princess Trust, adorn the new shirt which was well received by the lads who love the new style design.

Team manager, Simon Martindale, said: "We are proud to unveil our new kit and welcome new sponsors into the Tarleton Rugby Club 'family'

"On behalf of everyone at the club I would like to thank our new sponsors for their support."

Players, officials and sponsors of Tarleton Rugby Club under-14s show off the new kit.

Wildlife Trust urges supporters to lobby MPs to ensure Environment Act protects native species

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE Wildlife Trust is calling on its members and supporters in Lancashire to lobby their MPs to ensure the Government does all it can to protect native species.

The trust is encouraging members and supporters to write to their MPs urging them to support a "strong and meaningful" Environment Act" promised for next year.

Trust chief executive, Anne Selby, said: "We are facing mass extinctions unless immediate action is taken. In the UK we cannot be complacent about the problems in our own country. And we cannot just look at the environmental issues in our own region without linking them to the rest of the planet.

"Turtle doves and nightjars no longer live in the North West, other bird numbers have plummeted since the end of the war. Hedgehog numbers in the UK have fallen from five million to less than a million today. Swallow populations have declined by 45 per cent.

"It really is that serious, the time has come for a change of attitude to the environment and we must put pressure on our own local politicians to ensure that the North West and UK are at the forefront of saving our precious wildlife before it is too late."

Specifically, the trust wants members and supporters to urge their local MPs to pledge their support for a strong and relevant Environment Bill in 2019 to ensure that safeguards to protect wildlife are retained and strengthened and continue to "make a noise for wildlife" in the corridors of power.

Anne Selby, Wildlife Trust chief executive officer for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside.

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Scouse Cinderella Is the show's star. Picture by Zanto Digital

Oh no she isn't! Scouse Cinderella is different to age-old panto traditions

Scouse Cinderella
Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool
Review by Ron Ellis

THIS was a great pantomime - hilariously funny with superb technical effects.

There was stunning costumes, an up to date script and a revolving stage with magnificent, changing sets depicting three areas of Liverpool, namely St. Georges Hall, The Town Hall and woodland representing Calderstones Park and Sefton Meadows.

The latter gives a political angle to the plot, the question of the council selling off public areas of land to fill gaps in the city budget.

If you are sick and tired of the same old routines every year ('He's behind you! Oh yes he is, no he isn't'…), well you'll be glad to know you won't get them here. Instead, there is a live four-piece band playing well-known, singalong numbers .

And don't expect events to turn out quite how you'd expect. Surely Cinderella will marry the handsome prince? Whose feet does the silver shoe fit?

The normally delectable Keddy Sutton is hardly recognisable as Mayor Hardupson, saddled as she is with a bald pate and a gargantuan belly.

Hayley Sheen, she of the lovely singing voice, has the title role of 'Cinderella, wooed by Stephen Fletcher in the shape of the smooth-talking Peter Price.

Highlight of the show is a frantic car race against a filmed backdrop through the city, past the Town Hall, through the Tunnel, across the Mersey and back. Ingenious and great fun.

Following in the tradition of last years' 'Scouse Nativity' this is no ordinary pantomime and all the better for it as the standing ovation at the end proved.

It has been said the audience and the regular actors at the Royal Court are like a family. I would say more than that. The Royal Court audience is the theatrical equivalent of The Kop at Anfield.

Star Rating: 9 out of 10. A refreshingly different 'pantomime'. More next year please.

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LEATHER COAT size 12 Dark Brown full length with drop waist detail on the back. Excellent condition. £35 / 0151 9321725

BOYS GILLETS Higear two tone blue with hood or Northtrail black both size medium (boys) £5 each. 0151 9321725

JANE NORMAN handbag, black/silver £5. Red Pringle coat, size 12, new £10. Black M&S shoes, size 5 £8 07946 324054

JACQUES VERT royal blue skirt, jacket, trousers and top, all matching size 18, worn once, only £80 01704 572037

SELECTION LADIES JACKETS AND COATS size 14 & 16, immaculate condition, £1 and £2 each 07847 911088

LADIES SHOES New Clark's shoes, navy blue size 6 1/2, small heal. Cost new £50. Sell £20.00. 07387439004

DUFFLE JACKET Ladies faux fur lined and trimmed jacket with hood, by Wallis. Size L (14). Light beige v.g. Condition £5 01695575552

COSTUME JEWELLERY Selection of necklaces, bracelets, bangles. Too many to itemise but most items under £3 each. Worth a look. 07835768013

CLOTHING

MEN'S SHIRTS 4 shirts 5XL 2 66"/1 70"/1 72" chest in maroon/yellow/pale pink. excellent condition £3 each all four £10 01704220356

BEAUTIFUL DESIGNER GIRLS RAINCOAT and hat bnwt from kids cavern age 4 with lining inside cost £59 bargain at £20 bargain 07518929646

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MENS JOGGERS Grey tracksuit, Navy joggers (never worn) charcoal joggers and polo shirt. all size small. £15 0151 9321725

ELISA CAVALETTI full length jacket in dark grey fabrics . Size 10 Cost new £450 accept £30.View Ormskirk or Rufford 07966101288

BOYS CLOTHES Bundle of 8 boys' tops from Boden, Next etc. Long and short sleeves. Age 6-7. Good condition. £20. 07783 957954

FAUX FUR jacket, 3/4 length, brown with black zig zag lines, excellent condition, size 12, paid £80 New Look, £25 ono 0151 9244978

CLOTHING

BOYS NEXT hooded padded coat, age 11, worn twice, £10. Boys Timberland body warmer, brown, never worn £15. 0151 5316093

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CLOTHING

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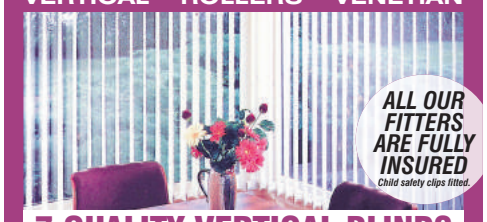

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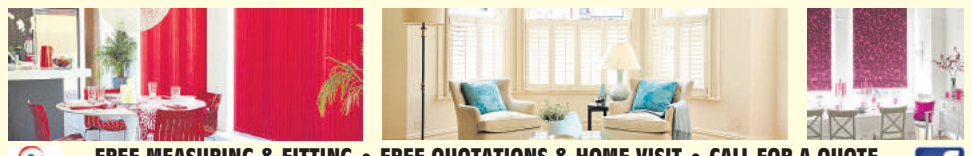

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DEATHS

TYRER, ETHEL (BETTY)

November 28th 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 101 years.

Wife of the late John. Betty will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at St Thomas' Church, Lydiate on Monday December 10th 2018 at 10:15am followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired for The B.H.F c/o Graham J Clegg Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JB
Tel: 0151 520 3330 or at www.cleggfunerals.co.uk

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

GRAHAM ROBERT FREDERICK (BOB)

30th November 2018
Passed away suddenly at home, surrounded by his loving family, aged 84 years

Devoted Husband of Lilian, Much loved Dad of Andrew and Keith, devoted Grandpa of Harry and Dear Father-In-Law of Rachel.

For Funeral Arrangements and further enquiries please contact Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Tel: 01695 424888.

DEATHS

CONSTANTINE DAVID

25th November 2018
after a short illness peacefully at home aged 90 years

Dearly loved Uncle of all his Nieces and Nephews. David will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough, Thursday 13th December at 10.45am. Family flowers only by request, but the family are receiving donations for Galloway's Society for the Blind.
Further enquiries: Co-operative Funeralcare, 22c Wigan Road, Ormskirk
Tel: 01695 577244.

BIRD MICHAEL GEOFFREY (MICK)

On 28th November 2018
Peacefully in Hospital Aged 79 years
Ex Drummer at The Kingsway in the 1960's

Beloved Husband of Jennifer, dear Step Father of John, Mark and Peter, dear Step Father in Law of Vicky, Angela and Joanne and Grandad Mike of Kate and David. Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 7th December at 10:00am. No flowers by request donations if so desired for Southport Offshore Rescue Trust and Woodlands Animal Sanctuary. Donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG. Tel: 01704 214118.

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DEATHS

WHEELER LESLEY

November 29th 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 82 years

Loving Wife of the late Don. Mum of Ian and Cathy. Mother in law of Jenny and Matthew, Nan of Sam, Michael, Alice, Alfred, Florence and Great Nan of Lucas. She will be sadly missed by all family and friends. Funeral service and cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Tuesday December 11th 2018 at 2:30pm. Flowers if desired. All further enquiries c/o Graham J Clegg Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull, Merseyside L31 5JB
Tel: 0151 520 3330 or at www.cleggfunerals.co.uk

MEADOWS FRANK

26th November 2018
Peacefully in hospital aged 73 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Husband of Paula, loving Dad of Mark and Collette, dear Father in law of Sian and Peter and devoted Grandad of Marc and Cary. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 6th December 2018 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for MacMillan Cancer Support.

All enquiries to Melanie Hardman of H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk and Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

DEATHS

HOUGHTON SYLVIA ELIZABETH

1st December 2018

We are very sad to announce that Sylvia passed away peacefully at home. Beloved Wife of Barrie (Baz), much loved Mum of Debbie and Son-in-law Les, Devoted Nan of Andrew, James and Darren & their partners Ruhi, Bekki & Lisa. Dedicated to all her Great-Grandchildren Jayme, Caitlin, Amelia, Ella & Elliot, Loving Sister to Lavinia & Husband Tommy. Family flowers only please but donations are being gratefully received for the British Heart foundation.

For Funeral arrangements please contact Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors. 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk,. Tele: 01695 424888.

DEATHS

GOUDIE ELIZABETH (BETTY)

29th November 2018
aged 84 Years

Beloved Wife of the late Tom, and devoted Mother to Sandra, Keith and Neil. Treasured Mother-in-law to Peter, Patricia and Gill, and wonderful Nana, much Loved by her Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service to be held on Friday 14th December at 2.30pm, St. Michael's Church, Aughton followed by commital at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family Flowers only please, Donations to the Alzheimer's Society and Zoe's Place are appreciated. Special thanks to Springfield Nursing Home for the care given.

Donations and enquiries to Lisa Hunter, MLS Independent Funeral Directors 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

DWAN MICHAEL ANTHONY

Passed away peacefully at Birkdale Park,
26th November 2018 aged 55 years formerly of Leybourne Avenue, Southport.

Dearly loved Husband of the late Angela, Much loved Dad of Laura, Loving Grandad of Henry. Dearest Son of Mary and the late John, Beloved Brother of Paul and the late Sean. Loved and missed by all his family and friends. Requiem Mass at St. Maries Church, Southport on Wednesday 12th December 2018 at 12 noon, followed by Interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery, Ainsdale. Family flowers only please by request but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice.

Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888

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22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP

DEATHS

BARROW PAUL

21st November 2018

Aged 57 years

Died peacefully after a short illness. Loving Son of Linda and the late Jim, dearest Brother of Catherine and loving Uncle of Elinor and Rhian. Paul will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 7th December at 2:40pm. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being collected for R.N.L.I. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

RANSOM JOHN

Peacefully in Croston Park Nursing Home on 24th November 2018 aged 96 years. Beloved Husband of the late Margaret, and a dearly loved Uncle. Will be sadly missed The funeral was held at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 4th December. Donations may be made for St Catherine's Hospice c/o the funeral director. Inquiries to Neal Buckley, Tarleton Funeral Home, 49 Church Road, Tarleton Tel: 01772 301700

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HALE MARGARET

Graham, Gillian and family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to all relatives and friends for their sympathy cards, messages of condolence and Donations for The British Heart Foundation and North West Cancer Research, received during their recent sad loss of a very much loved Mum, Grandma, Great Grandma, Great Great Grandma and Friend. Special thanks also to Rev. Pauline Bicknell for allowing us to use the Church,Our Nephew, Rev. Canon Dylan Williams for his kind words of comfort and a very fitting and personal service for Margaret and to Sally Hunter and the Team at MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their dignified Funeral Arrangements.

IN MEMORIAM

CAUNCE HENRY

30th March 1923

7th December 2017

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JULIE CARTER
(nee McFarlane)

23rd July 1964 -
5th December 2008

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TOYS AND GAMES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

MARGARET CROSS (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 26 Silver Birch Nursing Home Bold Lane Aughton Ormskirk L39 6SH who died on 28/07/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before two months from the date of this publication, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE/CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that an application has been made to the Licensing Authority of West Lancashire Borough Council for the grant of a Premises Licence under Section 17 Licensing Act 2003/ Club Premises Certificate under Section 71 Licensing Act 2003.

Name of Applicant:
Estates and Valuation Section, Development and Regeneration Service, West Lancashire Borough Council.

Postal Address of the Premises:
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2DF

Details of the application are as follows;
Opening Hours: Sunday - Thursday, 11.00 - 23.30 hours;
Friday - Saturday, 11.00 - 00.30 hours.
Supply of Alcohol: Sunday - Thursday 11.00 - 23.00 hours;
Friday - Saturday 11.00 - 00.00 hours.
Recorded Music: Sunday - Thursday 11.00 - 23.00 hours;
Friday - Saturday 11.00 - 00.00 hours.
Late Night Refreshment: Friday - Saturday 23.00.00.00 hours.

The application may be inspected at the West Lancashire Borough Council Licensing office, between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday at the address shown below or brief details can also be obtained from the Council's website at http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/licensing.

Any "Interested Party" who wishes to make representations must submit them in writing to the Licensing Officer, West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Section, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EE or via e-mail to licensing.enquiries@westlancs.gov.uk by no later than 23rd December 2018.

IT IS AN OFFENCE knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, and on summary conviction a person is liable to a fine of up to £5,000.

West Lancashire Borough Council

Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2018/0944/COU Partial change of use from hot food take away to cafe at Hesketh Bank Fish Bar, 19 Station Road, Hesketh Bank.

2018/1199/FUL Proposed loft conversion at 7 Bescar Brow Lane, Scarisbrick.

The application affects a Conservation Area.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e-mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 24 days of the date of this notice quoting the application number.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

How information about you will be used
The personal data you provide will be used as part of the Council's statutory planning duties in processing planning and related applications. Some of the personal information, including your name and address, you provide will be published. For further information about this notice or how we use your personal data please see: http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning/planning-privacy-notices/level-2-development-management-cil-privacy-notice.aspx and http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/about-the-council/legal-statements-and-foi/privacy-and-data-protection-gdpr.aspx. Hard copies are available on request.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated:5th December 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT1023

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, BURNLEY, HYNDBURN, PENDLE, PRESTON, ROSSENDALE, WYRE, AND WEST LANCS) (REVOCATIONS AND VARIOUS PARKING RESTRICTIONS (FEBRUARY/APRIL NO 1)) ORDER 201*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council propose to make the above Traffic Regulation Order under Sections 1, 2 and 4 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984,** as amended, the effect of which will be to:

1. Revoke the following: a. The whole of the "Lancashire County Council (Grane Street, Haslingden, Rossendale Borough) (Disabled Parking Place) Order 2009";
b. The "Lancashire County Council (Hyndburn Area) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) Consolidation Order 2009" insofar as it relates to;
i. Items (230) a) and (230) b) of Schedule 10.01;
ii. Item (3) b) of Schedule 10.20.
c. The "Lancashire County Council (Preston Area) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) Consolidation Order 2009" insofar as it relates to;
i. Items (3), (5) a), (6), (10), (11), (15) b) and (20) of Schedule 11.018;
ii. Item (2) a) (iii) of Schedule 11.073;
iii. Items (1), (2), (3) a) and (3) b) of Schedule 11.108.
d. The "Lancashire County Council (Rossendale Area) (On Street Parking Places, Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting) Consolidation Order 2009" insofar as it relates to;
i. Items (6), (8), (12), (15) and (22) of Schedule 2.01;
ii. Items (35) c) of Schedule 10.01.
e. The whole of the "Lancashire County Council (Holland Avenue, Rawtenstall, Rossendale Borough) (Disabled Parking Place) Order 2010";
f. The whole of the "Lancashire County Council (Almond Crescent, Rawtenstall, Rossendale Borough) (Disabled Parking Places) Order 2010";
g. The "Lancashire County Council (Various Roads, Ormskirk / Aughton, West Lancashire Borough) (Part Revocation, Prohibition of Waiting, Restriction of Waiting, Limited Waiting, Restriction of Loading/Unloading and School Keep Clear) Order 2012" insofar as it relates to items (4) b), (4) c) and (4) d) of Schedule 4;
h. The "Lancashire County Council (Haslingden Old Road, John Street and New Street, Haslingden and Rawtenstall, Rossendale Borough) (Part Revocation, Prohibition of Waiting, Restriction of Waiting, Restriction of Loading and Disabled Parking Place) Order 2014" insofar as it relates to Schedule 4;
i. The "Lancashire County Council (Alma Street, Bacup Road, Waterfoot, Barlow Street, Fallbarn Fold, Haslingden Road, Bury Road, Rawtenstall, Northfield Road, Roundhill View, Commerce Street, Haslingden, Rossendale Borough) (Revocation, Prohibition of Waiting, Restriction of Waiting, Limited Waiting, and Prohibition of Loading and Unloading) Order 2016" insofar as it relates to Schedule 3;
j. The "Lancashire County Council (Various Road, Chorley, Fylde, Pendle, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Wyre Boroughs) (Revocations and Various Parking Restrictions (June No1)) Order 2018" insofar as it relates to items dd), ee), ff), gg), hh) and ii) of Schedule 4.
2. Introduce a taxi stand from 8pm until midnight and midnight until 3am, in Bacup Road, Rawtenstall, the south side, from a point 18 metres west from its junction the centreline of Cowpe Road for a distance of 21 metres in a westerly direction.
3. Introduce a prohibition of waiting in the following lengths of road;
a. Clitheroe Road, Brierfield, the south side, from a point 10 metres west from its junction with the centreline of Holden Road for a distance of 75 metres in an easterly direction;
b. Clod Lane, Haslingden, both sides, from its junction with the centreline of Manchester Road for a distance of 40 metres in a southerly direction;
c. Hall Lane, St Michaels-On-Wyre, the south side, from its junction with the centreline of Blackpool Road for a distance of 42 metres in an easterly direction;
d. Higher Reedley Road, Nelson, the east side, from its junction with the centreline of Hillingdon Road North for a distance of 20 metres in a northerly direction;
e. Holden Road, Brierfield, both sides, from its junction with the centreline of Clitheroe Road for a distance of 20 metres in a southerly direction;
f. King Street, Brierfield, both sides, from its junction with the centreline of Clitheroe Road for a distance of 10 metres in a southerly direction;
g. Manchester Road, Haslingden, the south side, from its junction with the centreline of Clod Lane for a distance of 15 metres in an easterly direction;
h. Peter Street, Colne, both sides, from its junction with the centreline of West Street for a distance of 10 metres in a southerly direction;
i. Sydney Street, Burnley, the east side, from a point 4 metres north of its junction with the centreline of Arch Street for a distance of 14 metres in a southerly direction;
j. Sydney Street, Burnley, the east side, from a point 50 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Arch Street for a distance of 16 metres in a southerly direction;
k. Sydney Street, Burnley, the west side, from its junction with the centreline of Arch Street for its entire length;
l. West Street, Colne, the south side, from a point 8 metres west from its junction with the centreline of Peter Street to a point 10 metres east from its junction with the centreline of Peter Street;
m. West Street, Colne, the south side, from a point 10 metres west from its junction with the centreline of William Street to a point 10 metres east from its junction with the centreline of William Street;
n. White Ash Lane, Oswaldtwistle, the east side, from its junction with the centreline of Smithy Bridge Street for a distance of 10 metres in a southerly direction;
o. White Ash Lane, Oswaldtwistle, the west side, from its junction with the centreline of Union Road to a point 68 metres north of its junction with the centreline of Oswald Street;
p. William Street, Colne, both sides, from its junction with the centreline of West Street for a distance of 10 metres in a southerly direction.
4. Introduce a restriction of waiting between 10am and 10pm in the following lengths of road;
a. Bill Shankly Crescent, Preston both sides, for its entire length;
b. Duchy Avenue, Fulwood, the west side, from a point 15 metres north of its junction with the centreline of Watling Street Road to its junction with centreline of Fulwood Hall Lane;
c. Garrison Road, Fulwood, the north-west side, from a point 20 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Watling Street Road to a point 36 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Victoria Road;
d. Manor House Crescent, Preston, the east side, from its junction with the centreline of Manor House Lane to its junction with the centreline of Holme Slack Lane;
e. Manor House Lane, Preston, the north-west side, from its junction with the centreline of Blackpool Road to a point 7 metres north of its junction with the centreline of Manor House Crescent;
f. Parkside, Preston, the south side, from its junction with the centreline of Sir Tom Finney Way to its junction with the centreline of Bill Shankly Crescent;
g. Westway, Fulwood, both sides, from its junction with the centreline of Fulwood Hall Lane for a distance of 20 metres in a westerly direction.
5. Introduce a restriction of waiting from Monday to Friday between 8am and 6.30pm in Byron Street, Padiham, the east side, from its junction with the centreline of rear 794-804 Padiham Road to its junction with the centreline of rear 1-11 Poet's Road.
6. Introduce a restriction of waiting from Monday to Friday between 8am and 9am, and 3pm and 4pm in the following lengths of road;
a. Town Green Lane, Aughton, the north-west side, from a point 79 metres west of its junction with the centreline of Sagar Fold to a point 42 metres north-east of its junction with the centreline of Whalley Drive;
b. Town Green Lane, Aughton, the south side, from its junction with the centreline of Sagar Fold for a distance of 125 metres in a westerly direction.
7. Introduce limited waiting for 30 minutes, no return within 1 hour, Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm in Clod Lane, Haslingden, the east side, from a point 3 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Grasmere Road for a distance of 45 metres in a southerly direction.
8. Introduce limited waiting for 1 hour, no return within 2 hours, Monday to Friday between 8am and 6pm in Bacup Road, Rawtenstall, the south side, from a point 18 metres west from its junction with the centreline of Cowpe Road for a distance of 21 metres in a westerly direction.
9. Introduce limited waiting for 40 minutes, no return within 40 minutes, Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm in Sydney Street, Burnley, the east side, from a point 10 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Arch Street for a distance of 40 metres in a southerly direction.
10. Introduce a restriction of loading between 10am and 10pm in the following lengths of road;
a. Allenby Avenue, Preston, the south side, for its entire length;
b. Bill Shankly Crescent, Preston, both Sides, for its entire length;
c. Chapman Road, Fulwood, the south side, from its junction with Garrison Road for a distance of 82 metres in a westerly direction;
d. Duchy Avenue, Fulwood, the west side, from a point 15 metres north of its junction with the centreline of Watling Street Road to its junction with the centreline of Fulwood Hall Lane;
e. Garrison Road, Fulwood, the north-west side, from a point 20 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Watling Street Road to a point 36 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Victoria Road;
f. Garrison Road, Fulwood, the south side, from its junction with Chapman Road for a distance of 64 metres in an easterly direction;
g. Lowthorpe Crescent, Preston, the south-west side, for its entire length;
h. Lowthorpe Road, Preston, both sides, for its entire length;
i. Manor Avenue, Preston, the south side, for its entire length;
j. Manor House Crescent, Preston, the east side, from its junction with the centreline of Manor House Lane to its junction with the centreline of Holme Slack Lane;
k. Manor House Lane, Preston, the north-west side, from its junction with the centreline of Blackpool Road to a point 7 metres north of its junction with the centreline of Manor House Crescent;
l. Moor Park Avenue, Preston, the south side, from its junction with Deepdale Road to its junction with St. Paul's Road;
m. Park Avenue, Preston, the north east & east side, for its entire length;
n. Park Road, Fulwood, the east side, from a point 20 metres south of its junction with the centreline of Watling Street Road to its junction with the centreline of Chapman Road;
o. Parkside, Preston, the north side, for its entire length;
p. Parkside, Preston, the south side, from its junction with the centreline of Sir Tom Finney Way to its junction with the centreline of Bill Shankly Crescent;
q. Victoria Road, Fulwood, the north side, from its junction with the centreline of Park Road to its junction with the centreline of Garrison Road;
r. Westway, Fulwood, both sides, from its junction with the centreline of Fulwood Hall Lane for a distance of 20 metres in a westerly direction.

A copy of the draft Order and associated documents for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Pendle Borough Council, No1 Market Street, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 9LU , and at the offices of Burnley Borough Council, Town Hall, Manchester Road, Burnley, BB11 9SA, and at the offices of Preston City Council, PO Box 10, Town Hall, Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 2RL, and at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF, and at the offices of Hyndburn Borough Council, Scaitcliffe House, Ormerod Street, Accrington, BB5 0PF, and at the offices of Rossendale Borough Council - One Stop Shop, The Business Centre, Futures Park, Newchurch Road, Bacup, OL13 0BB, and at the offices of Wyre Borough Council, Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, FY6 7PU, and at the offices of The Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ, and on Lancashire County Councils Website http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads/roadworks-and-traffic-regulation-orders/permanent.aspx. Any representations or objections (specifying the grounds on which they are made) relating to the proposal must be made in writing and should be sent to The Director of Corporate Services, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ or by e-mail to tro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk **quoting ref:LSG4\894.8702\AFR** before the 04 January 2019.

Laura Sales, Director of Corporate Services
05 December 2018.

Lancashire County Council

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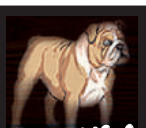
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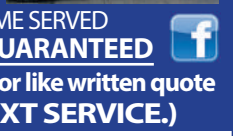

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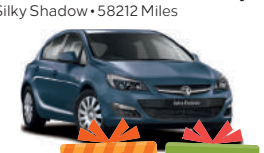

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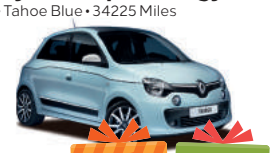

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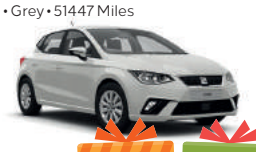

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I never realised buttons are fundamentally important to my happy and wholesome life

BUTTONS. Until this week I didn't realise how fundamentally important they are to my happy, wholesome life – but an outing in a Renault Captur changed all that.

Not only are buttons fairly important in keeping my shirts intact and preventing any unfortunate colleagues from being treated to an *Austin Powers*-esque helping of unwanted chest hair, they've also given their name to one of my favourite chocolate snacks. Buttons also provided the premise for the brilliantly barmy spacefaring children's show *Button Moon* – admit it, you watched it too – and allow you to switch everything from calculators to Sony Playstations on and off.

But the Captur – and to be fair, just about every family hatchback on offer these days – doesn't have nearly enough of them, because it relies on an infotainment system with a touchscreen to manage all the vaguely important stuff. Which is great when you want a screen with satnav directions built into it, but an utter nightmare when you're trying to do anything remotely complicated.

I was in the passenger seat when a colleague asked me to switch off the Captur's audible speed camera alert. Its occasional beep is a useful feature to have, but on a stretch of the M1 with a camera seemingly every three feet Radio 2 was being drowned out by what sounded like a drunk communicating in Morse code. Shutting it up should've been a simple task, but the Captur's infotainment system is so complicated that I ended up buried in sub menus of sub menus, desperately tapping every option to stop the incessant beeping.

I opened the glovebox up to find an empty space where the owner's manual would normally live; it later turned out this would've been useless anyway, because while a handbook deciphering the infotainment system's various modes does exist it wouldn't have been supplied with our car anyway.

So I ended up looking online, finding the Renault Captur Owners' Club – no, *really* – and learning, after scrolling through many pages on its advice forum, the correct way of navigating the system's labyrinth of options to turn the speed camera alerts off.

Success, but it'd taken nearly 20 minutes and every ounce of my concentration to crack it. Had I'd been driving, I'd either be dead or somewhere near Dundee by now.

The other problem is that I have no problem with swiping through the touch screen on my smartphone because it isn't attached to something that's jolting its way down a badly surfaced motorway at 70mph.

There are lots of different systems plumbed into all sorts of cars nowadays – I drove a Peugeot 308 last weekend for instance, which was fine – but the Captur's controls made things surprisingly tricky. Not great on a car that has quite a choppy ride to begin with.

The Captur has many things to commend it, but most of all I applaud its ability to make me appreciate buttons.

Buttons are underrated, and don't take 20 minutes to work out. And anyway, can you imagine your kids watching *Touchscreen Moon*?

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Eumessi bags a brace to hand in-form Burscough three points

Hanley Town 1
Burscough 2

BURSCOUGH scored a last gasp winner deep into injury time to emerge from their longest away trip of the season with all three points.

The win was thanks to a brace of goals from Donald Eumessi, the second deep into injury time, giving them their fourth win from eight away games.

It extends the Linnets good run to seven points out of the last nine and lifts them into 12th position in the North-West Counties Premier Division table.

Burscough started well and after a corner a Eumessi shot from 20 yards went wide, but down the other end Hanley were a threat too, Oliver Mellor putting a cross right over the face of the Linnets goal.

On the quarter-hour Hanley went close again cutting in from the left before putting a shot from an acute angle just wide.

It was then Burscough's turn, Chad Whyte heading the ball down but strike partner Eumessi was off target.

It was becoming a good game and Jordan Lorde almost opened the scoring in the 22nd minute rounding Hanley goalkeeper Joe Mellor but seeing his angled attempt cleared away by George Mealey.

Burscough were beginning to build up the pressure and it paid off on 25 minutes.

A free-kick was sent into the goal mouth and the six foot tall Eumessi headed the ball into the roof of the net.

However, Burscough have for a while now been prone to a lack of concentration and on the half-hour it reared its head again.

Hanley attacked, Ryan Connor crossed but presented with a free-header Burscough were thankful to see Mackenzie Faulkner head wide.

Burscough went very close to making it 2-0 on 37 minutes, Chad Whyte hit a tremendous volley but it was matched by a tremendous save by home goalkeeper Joe Mellor.

In the five minutes before the interval Hanley pressed and after an excellent free-kick from Connor, failed to get a touch.

They went on the offensive again in added time, Faulkner crossed from the right and Oliver Mellor sent a glancing header into the Linnets net via the upright.

Soon after the break Whyte saw his free-kick kiss the top of the home crossbar, but Hanley were going for it too, Oliver Mellor who was proving a handful had a shot blocked then put a header wide.

Burscough goalkeeper Max Povey saved from a far post header on 70 minutes from Keates; then repeated the act ten minutes later from the same player.

Finally two minutes into added time Eumessi struck, sending the Linnets home happy.

They may have had the rub of the green in winning, but it would have been very wrong indeed if they had lost. The sceptre of relegation is now a distant shadow with Burscough now 16 points clear of that worry.

Skem come back from two goals down to earn draw

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skelmersdale United 2
Kidsgrove Athletic 2

TEN man Skelmersdale United produced a brilliant comeback to earn a point in a bizarre match which saw the referee go off injured.

It was already an eventful day at Skelmersdale with the "real" home debut for new manager Paul McNally, but the game finished in a thrilling last quarter-hour that could have seen either team win as play swayed from end to end.

The day started with three debutants in the Skelmersdale line-up, one of which young goalkeeper Liam Boden was quickly called into action making an excellent low save from Kidsgrove number nine Chris Budrys.

The day started to go on its eccentric course when early in the game the match ball was lost up a tree next to the ground, where it hung out of reach for the entire game.

The first sad incident of the day occurred on 15 minutes when Kidsgrove lost Tom France, who looked to twist his knee and was carried off on a stretcher. I am sure everyone hopes his injury is not as serious as it looked.

Then Skelmersdale lost a player on 24 minutes, Will Dunne exiting with what appeared to be concussion.

Boden made another good save on 29 minutes, Anthony Malbon turned in the box but was thwarted by the former Southport youngster.

Skelmersdale had a great chance on 31 minutes, Tom Molyneux lofting a free-kick into the Kidsgrove goalmouth but Oliver Van Ven headed wide.

In the 37th minute Kidsgrove took the lead via a wonderful strike. The away side were awarded a free-kick some 35 yards out but instead of sending it into the danger area the ball was rolled sideways to an unmarked Peter Williams who hit a right-foot thunderbolt into the Skem net via the crossbar.

Van Veen had another opportunity on 43 minutes, Molyneux's pass split the away defence but from an angle Van Veen's shot found the side netting.

The second-half opened with Kidsgrove pressing for a second goal, a series of free-kicks and corners were dealt with until the 53rd minute when they won a free-kick on the right.

Sean Yeldrem in action for Skelmersdale United earlier this season

The ball was sent into the heart of the Skem area, Kidsgrove central defender Adam Freeland got above everyone else and headed home to make it 2-0.

In previous weeks faced with a two goal deficit Skelmersdale would have found it too bigger mountain to climb, but manager McNally had equipped then with "climbing boots and crampons" as well as a good spirit and they did get back up again.

The comeback didn't come about until Boden had prevented a third goal. Malbon was put in one on one with the keeper, his blasted shot was not only saved but held onto, it had to be too as visiting forwards circled in front of Boden.

The game turned on the hour mark. Skelmersdale won a free-kick in a central area and the ball was played to Danny McLoughlin on the left, he beat a man then fired the ball across the face of goal, everybody missed it except for Louis Keegan at the far post, he directed the ball into the net, halving the arrears.

Skelmersdale pushed on from the goal and Kidsgrove now had to defend, they did fairly well until the 69th minute when Sean Yeldrem took the ball from a throw-in on the right and set off into the penalty area.

He was pulled back by the shirt, everyone could see except for the referee, however his assistant flagged and a penalty was given.

Yeldrem took the spot-kick himself, efficiently driving the ball low to goalkeeper Dominic Kyrasik's right and making it 2-2. Skelmersdale had ascended the mountain.

Kidsgrove ploughed forward and were perhaps unlucky when a Will Saxon shot was blocked, but on 75 minutes another sad incident happened. Kidsgrove made vociferous appeals for a penalty and pursued a now back pedalling referee Neil Evans up the pitch, Mr Evans took a bad step and was left reeling in agony on the floor. He left the field on a stretcher reportedly with an ankle injury and everyone wishes him well.

In the Evo-Stik League there are no fourth officials so an appeal was put out for an official, if one wasn't found the game would have to be abandoned.

After a fair old pause John White a local official stepped in to take up the assistants duties, assistant Mark Hanson taking over as referee and the game restarted.

Now it was a stretched encounter with chances at both ends, Davy Moore put a shot narrowly wide for Skem, who were then reduced to ten men. James O'Hara being dismissed for a second yellow card, each given out by a different referee.

Kidsgrove seemed to have a goal bound shot blocked by their own player, then at the other end McLoughlin blocked a clearance by keeper Kyrasik, but the ball was cleared with the goal behind the out of position keeper empty.

Boden made another save from a close range header and Skem nearly netted after a heading dual from a corner.

In the end it was fair result and nobody could go home and say there was nothing to talk about.

Manager Paul McNally was smiling at the end when he said: "It was a great performance from the lads. I thought we were unlucky to be 2-0 down, but what a comeback."

Linnets to face table toppers in cup clash

BURSCOUGH face a daunting derby cup clash against local rivals City of Liverpool this Saturday.

The Linnets make the short trip to the home of the North-West Counties League leaders for the Macron Cup match.

Burscough got to the final of the Macron Cup last season and only lost out in a close run encounter against Widnes.

The draw has dealt them what is arguably the toughest it could, as City of Liverpool are the runaway leaders of the North-West Counties League and have only lost once all season in their aim for promotion.

The Linnets will be up for the match that will be played at Bootle FC, and you get the impression that after last season's final the competition is high on their agenda.

They also have a great record on the road and have won four out of their eight away games so far, including one particularly impressive win at third placed Runcorn Town, so it is not a foregone conclusion.

The Purples have a strong following and this Saturday will be no different with Burscough set to play in a loud atmosphere at Bootle's ground.

Meanwhile, Skelmersdale United travel to the end of the M65 where they will tackle Colne.

Colne are in fourth place in Evo-Stik Division One West and are hot on the heels of leader Runcorn Linnets, but they are vulnerable at home having lost four times already this season and Skelmersdale have picked five of their eight points up at away venues.

Those Skelmersdale supporters that were at the Kidsgrove on Saturday witnessed definite signs of improvement.

Manager Paul McNally appears to have made some good signings, especially in defence, so it could be interesting and the Skelmersdale supporters will travel with justified hope.

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YOUR LOCAL NEWS IS INSIDE...

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

WINTER COURSES
Find out more and enrol at our Open Day & Christmas Market on
Saturday 8 December 2018 11am-2pm
SKELMERSDALE CAMPUS, COLLEGE WAY, SKELMERSDALE WN8 6LH.

West Lancashire College

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Rise of the Machines

College invests in STEM to future proof the workforce.

Following on from its £2.5m investment in the new Construction, Engineering and Logistics Centre, West Lancashire College has begun to explore Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its ramifications for the future work force.

In a rapidly developing field with nearly every industry, workforce and more recently home being enhanced through some form of robotics, experience of AI is quickly becoming a key employability skill.

Being firm believers in making their learners a step ahead of the competition, the college is delighted to have secured funding for a PEPPER Robot through partnership with the National Outreach Collaboration Project. PEPPER is the world's first social humanoid robot able to recognise faces and basic human emotions. PEPPER was optimised for human interaction and is able to engage with people through conversation and her touch screen. Often used in social care or customer service settings the College's Computing students have been busy turning PEPPER into a greeter for visitors to their high profile open evenings.

Proving that programming is a valuable and transferable skill the students have been working hard to programme a small fleet of drones and have also began their first foray into Virtual Reality gaming.

Following on from the success of PEPPER, the college have recently welcomed PEPPER's friend NAO into the College. Famous around the world, NAO is a tremendous programming tool and he has especially become a standard in education and research.

College Principal Denise Williamson states 'We very much view our robot family as part of the community and welcome interest from local schools or anyone interested in STEM subjects to get in touch to see how they can help or benefit from Project PEPPER."

The College offers a range of full-time and part-time courses in IT & Computing, with options to start this January 2019. Please see inside for list of courses available, and if you'd like to find out more please go along to the College's Open Day and Christmas Market on Saturday 8th December 2018, 11am-2pm, College Way, Skelmersdale WN8 6LH or call 01695 52393/ 01695 52300 / enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk / www.westlancs.ac.uk

Study GCSE Maths online ready for exams this summer!

From January 2019, West Lancashire College are delighted to offer a brand new Maths GCSE Online study programme for those who need to gain their GCSE Maths this summer.

GCSE Online offers students who wish to re-sit Maths GCSE the opportunity to access a remote Maths online learning platform in the comfort of their own home. The programme follows the UK National Curriculum and offers bite sized modules with video support and instantly marked online assessments to show progress.

GCSE Online can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and students signing up to Maths Online will also receive email support from qualified maths tutors during college opening times.

The online study programme will prepare students for the summer 2019 Maths GCSE exams so students must be available to attend the college for the three, 9am, morning exams on Tuesday 21st May, Thursday 6th and Tuesday 11th June 2019.

The course costs just £199, anyone wishing to sign up must have access to their own home computer and internet access.

Whether you need your GCSE for career progression, to gain entry to further or higher education, or simply for your own satisfaction, GCSE Online offers the perfect opportunity to gain this sought after qualification.

You can enrol online by calling 01695 52393 / 01695 52300, or to find out more come along to the Enrolment and Open Day on Saturday 8th December, 11am-2pm, College Way, Skelmersdale WN8 6LH.

APPRENTICESHIP JOBS AVAILABLE TO START NOW
Business Administrator / Administration Assistant / Nursery Nurse / Hairdresser
Plumber / Receptionist / IT Technical Support Worker

West Lancashire College
Apprenticeships

Call 01695 52300
Email: enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk | www.westlancs.ac.uk

WINTER COURSES

Course	Day	Time	Duration	Fee	Campus	Start Date
ACCOUNTING & BOOK KEEPING						
Introduction to Bookkeeping Level 2	Mon	7pm-9pm	8 wks	£50	SC	14/01/2019
CATERING & HOSPITALITY						
Cake Decorating Beginners ☎	Thur	6pm-8.30pm	10 wks	£25*	SC	24/01/2019
Cake Decorating - Improvers Model Making ☎	Wed	6pm-8.30pm	10 wks	£25*	SC	23/01/2019
Cake Decorating - Sugar Flowers ☎	Tue	6pm-8.30pm	10 wks	£25*	SC	22/01/2019
General Patisseries/Confectionary Level 2 Certificate	Mon	9am-3pm	8 wks	£199	SC	28/01/2019
Works Cookery School ☎	Sat	9.30am-3.30pm	1 day	£90*	SC	26/01/2019
Introduction to Patisserie ☎	Wed	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£30*	SC	09/01/2019
COMPUTING & IT						
IT Level 1 Programme of Study (16-18)	Mon-Fri	9am-4pm	19 wks	FREE	SC	14/01/2019
Beginners IT ☎	Tue	5:30pm-8:30pm	6 wks	£20*	SC	29/01/2019
ECDL Extra	Tue	5:30pm-8:30pm	18 wks	£99	SC	08/01/2019
Project Pepper - introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (includes free choreography software) ☎	Tue	6.30pm-9pm	2 wks	£35*	SC	15/01/2019
CREATIVE ARTS, PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITAL						
Creative Writing ☎	Tue	2pm-5pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	15/01/2019
Digital Photography ☎	Mon	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£30*	SC	10/12/2018
Drawing Introduction ☎	Wed	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	23/01/2019
Interior Design Introduction ☎	Mon	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	14/01/2019
Interior Design Intermediate ☎	Tue	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£25*	SC	15/01/2019
Kiln Glass Taster ☎	Fri	10am-12.30pm	4 wks	£40*	SC	18/01/2019
Photoshop Introduction ☎	Tue	7pm-9pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	04/12/2018
Photography HNC - full-time	Mon-Tue	9am-4pm	1 year	£6,000	SC	21/01/2019
Pottery ☎	Tue	6pm-9pm	8 wks	£30*	SC	22/01/2019
Pottery ☎	Thur	10am-1pm	8 wks	£30*	SC	07/02/2019
DANCE						
Come Strictly Dancing Beginners ☎	Wed	6pm-7.30pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	05/12/2018
DRESSMAKING						
Dressmaking an Introduction ☎	Tue	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£75*	SC	15/01/2019
EMPLOYABILITY						
Learning for Work & Life (19+ learners)	Wed, Thur & Fri	9.30am-3.30pm	12 wks	FREE	SC	14/01/2019
ENGLISH						
English for Adults	Tue	6.30pm-8.30pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
English for Adults	Wed	1pm- 3pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
ESOL						
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Beginners	Mon	1pm- 3pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Beginners	Tue	9.30am-12noon or 6pm-8.30pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Advanced	Wed	9.30am-12noon or 6pm-8.30pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
HAIR, BEAUTY, SPA, MEDIA MAKE UP & NAILS						
Barbering Certificate Level 2 L2LE	Mon	3.30pm-9pm	18 wks	£495	SC	26/02/2019
Gel Polish Nails NFW ☎	Mon	9am-4.30pm	1 day	£300	SC	21/01/2019
Media Make-up Award Level 2	Wed	6pm-9pm	10 wks	£97	SC	09/01/2019
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE						
Health & Social Care (16-18)	Mon-Fri	9am-4pm	19 wks	FREE	SC	14/01/2019
HNC						
HNC in Photography - full-time	Mon-Tue	9am-4pm	1 year	£6,000	SC	21/01/2019
MATHS						
Maths for Adults	Tue	10.15am-12.15pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
Maths for Adults	Tue	1pm-3pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
Maths for Adults	Wed	6.30pm-8.30pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
Maths for Adults	Thur	12noon-2pm	Flexible	FREE	SC	Ongoing
Maths GCSE Online Learning	ongoing	ongoing	6 mths	£199	Online	07/01/2019
MUSIC						
Guitar Beginners ☎	Mon	12noon-1pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	07/01/2019
Guitar Beginners ☎	Tue	1pm-2pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	08/01/2019
Guitar Beginners ☎	Tue	6pm-7pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	08/01/2019
Guitar Workshop ☎	Tue	2pm-4pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	08/01/2019
Ukulele Beginners ☎	Tue	7pm-9pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	04/12/2018
Guitar Intermediate ☎	Mon	3pm-4pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	07/01/2019
Guitar Improvers ☎	Mon	6pm-7pm	10 wks	£35*	SC	07/01/2019
PATHWAYS						
Pathways Entry Level 3 (16-18)	Mon-Fri	9am-4pm	19 wks	FREE	SC	14/01/2019
PERFORMING ARTS						
Performing Arts (16-18)	Mon-Fri	9am-4pm	19 wks	FREE	SC	14/01/2019
PLUMBING						
Unvented Hot Water Training NFW	Fri	9am-5pm	2 days	£200	SC	01/02/2019
Water Regulations Training NFW	Mon	9am-5pm	1 day	£195	SC	28/01/2019
Plumbing (16-18)	Mon-Fri	9am-4pm	19 wks	FREE	SC	14/01/2019
POETRY						
Poetry ☎	Wed	2pm-4pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	16/01/2019
Poetry ☎	Tue	11am-1pm	10 wks	£20*	SC	15/01/2019
PRINCE'S TRUST						
Prince's Trust Programme for 16-25 year olds Entry Level 3 to Level 2	Mon-Fri	Full-time	12 wks	FREE	SC	21/01/2019
PUBLIC SERVICES						
Public Services (16-18)	Mon-Fri	9am-4pm	19 wks	FREE	SC	14/01/2019

Non-refundable enrolment and course materials fee, those on benefits may be eligible for fee remission

ENROLMENT

In person:
Saturday 8 December, 11am-2pm
Monday 10 – Friday 14 December, 10am-3pm
West Lancashire College, Skelmersdale Campus, College Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 6LH.

By telephone for courses marked with a :
Monday 10 – Friday 14 December, 10am-3pm
Call 01695 52393 / 52300

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO ENROLMENT

- If you are fee-paying student, you must bring enough money or method of payment to meet your first instalment. If you're signing up for a direct debit, make sure you've got your bank details with you.
- You will need to have knowledge of your current qualifications as well as your National Insurance number.

WHAT WILL I PAY?

Many of our courses are FREE or have no upfront costs. The cost of your course depends on your individual circumstance and there are lots of funding opportunities available to help pay for your course.
If you do have to pay for your course you could spread the payments with our instalment plan.

YOUR KEY TO SUCCESS...

(L2LE)	Level 2 Legal Entitlement 19-23
CFD	These courses are available for enrolment on a regular basis, please call for details
NFW	No Fee Waiver
SC	Skelmersdale Campus Telephone Enrolment for those Part-Time students who are NOT eligible for fee reduction
☎	*(eg full fee payers only)*

TUITION IS FREE FOR:

16-18 year olds
Identification and GCSE results required

Learners undertaking a First Full Level 2 qualification aged 19-23
Self certification to be signed at enrolment

Adults studying English or Maths Basic Skills **(None)**

Learners aged 19 or over in receipt of Job Seeker's Allowance and Employment Support Allowance (work related activity groups)
Current Letter authorised by the Job Centre (JSA book not accepted). Bank Statement

Learners aged 19 or over in receipt of UCRED, unemployed and mandated by Job Centre and earning less than £330 per month (All Work-Related Requirements Group, Work Preparation Group and Work-Focused Interview Group)
Current Letter authorised by the Job Centre

Adults in receipt of other State Benefits who are unemployed and wishing to return to work
Income Support – current letter/bank statement Housing/Council Tax Benefit – letter from council or bank statement. Working Tax Credit/Pension Credits – current award notice.

TUITION MAY BE DISCOUNTED FOR:

Individuals who want to be employed (or progress into more sustainable employment) and earning less than £15,736.50 annual gross salary
Proof of income eg: individual payslips (3 months), P60 Contract of employment

Individuals from a low household income who are not eligible for free tuition and have a gross household income of less than £20,817 or independent income of £12,400. Learners are required to apply to the Discretionary Learner Support Fund for financial help towards their tuition fee
Proof of income eg: household payslips (3 months), P60, current award notice

Stuck for Christmas Gift Ideas?
Give a COURSE **GIFT VOUCHER!**
Contact **01695 52300** to find out more

HNC Photography starts this January 2019!

Available full or part-time, includes a non-repayable bursary of up to £1000 for year one students.

To find out more, call **01695 52393 / 01695 52300**
enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk / www.westlancs.ac.uk

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email: littlelearners@westlancs.ac.uk
www.westlancs.ac.uk

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College Way,
Skelmersdale WN8 6LH.

30 hrs FREE* childcare per week
for three and four year olds

** Eligible working parents – terms and conditions apply*

little learners

Ofsted Outstanding

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Christmas Market and Open Day!

Christmas is coming to West Lancashire College and Santa will be calling in too! On Saturday 8 December, West Lancashire College are holding their annual charity Christmas Market, and are inviting the local community to go along!

There will be the opportunity to buy handmade crafts and treats – perfect stocking fillers in time for Christmas, made by learners and local crafts people including; Christmas Fayre, cards, Christmas crafts, ceramics, wooden Christmas decorations, bird boxes, bat boxes, reindeer hot chocolate, Salon Hair & Beauty products, plus there will be Christmas Face Painting, tombolas and raffles!

As well as festive fun, the event will also host a community Open Day for you to find out more about the range of Winter Courses, get careers advice and find out more about fees and financial support options available.

You are also welcome to look around the college and find out more about realistic working environments including The Imagery Hair & Beauty Spa, The Works Restaurant and find out more about our Little Learners community nursery.
The event is free of charge and takes place at the Skelmersdale Campus, College Way, Skelmersdale WN8 6LH, Saturday 8 December, 11am-2pm.

The college students have chosen a variety of local charities to support, and this year they include the Evermoor Hub in Skelmersdale, to support their Christmas present campaign, giving gifts to local children who would not usually receive anything on Christmas morning.

Everyone is welcome, so bring along your family and friends. To find out more, call 01695 52300.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of printing. We reserve the right however, to make alterations or amendments to the details contained in this booklet. Courses will operate subject to sufficient numbers

Aged 16-18?

Not in Education, Employment or Training?

West Lancashire College

Shape your future this January with West Lancashire College!

As a 16-18 year old student, you may be eligible* for:
- FREE college coach service from Liverpool, Aughton, Burscough or Wigan
- FREE or subsidised Arriva Bus Pass
- Financial bursary
- Financial support towards equipment and kit costs
- Meal Allowance

*subject to availability and eligibility

We have a range of opportunities for you to join from January 2019 including:

PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM 55

This 12 week personal development programme will give you the skills you need to become job or further education ready. It includes a Level 2 qualification and a community project in your local area. It also includes a 1 week residential at Rock and River and 2 weeks work experience with sports and enrichment activities with a Team Challenge!

APPRENTICESHIPS

Earn whilst you learn and kick start your career with an Apprenticeship! We have Apprentice jobs for you to apply for NOW including; Admin Assistant, Hairdresser, Plumber, Nursery Nurse, Receptionist and IT Assistant.

Apprenticeships

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Health & Social Care
Whether you want to be a midwife, paramedic, nurse, care worker or any one of the hundreds jobs available in the Health Care industry, a Health & Social Care course will open the doors to many careers.

IT & Computing
Learn all about software, games, web development and data. Our IT & Computing course can help you transform your interests into a brilliant career.

Plumbing
If you would like a career in Plumbing, you can study in our brand new £2.5m Construction, Engineering & Logistics Centre, offering you the very latest equipment and technologies. Develop your skills and kick start your career in Plumbing with o ur industry standard course.

Performing Arts
If you are you creative, ambitious and have a real passion for performing arts - fulfil your dreams and start a career by joining our Performing Arts Course. You will learn about stage management, perform scripted plays and perform dance and musical theatre.

Public Services
If you are interested in a career as a Police Officer, Fire Fighter, Paramedic, Customs & Revenue Officer or Prison Officer? Or are you set for a career in the Armed Forces? If so - our Public Services course could be perfect for you.

Pathways
If you are unsure of your next steps and would like to find out more about your career options before progressing onto more specific programmes in college then Vocation Studies is perfect for you. You will become familiar with the world of work, undertake a variety of practical experiences linked to particular careers and receive excellent support and encouragement in a caring, nurturing environment.

WEST LANCASHIRE COLLEGE 01695 52300
www.westlancs.ac.uk enquiries@westlancs.ac.uk

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE